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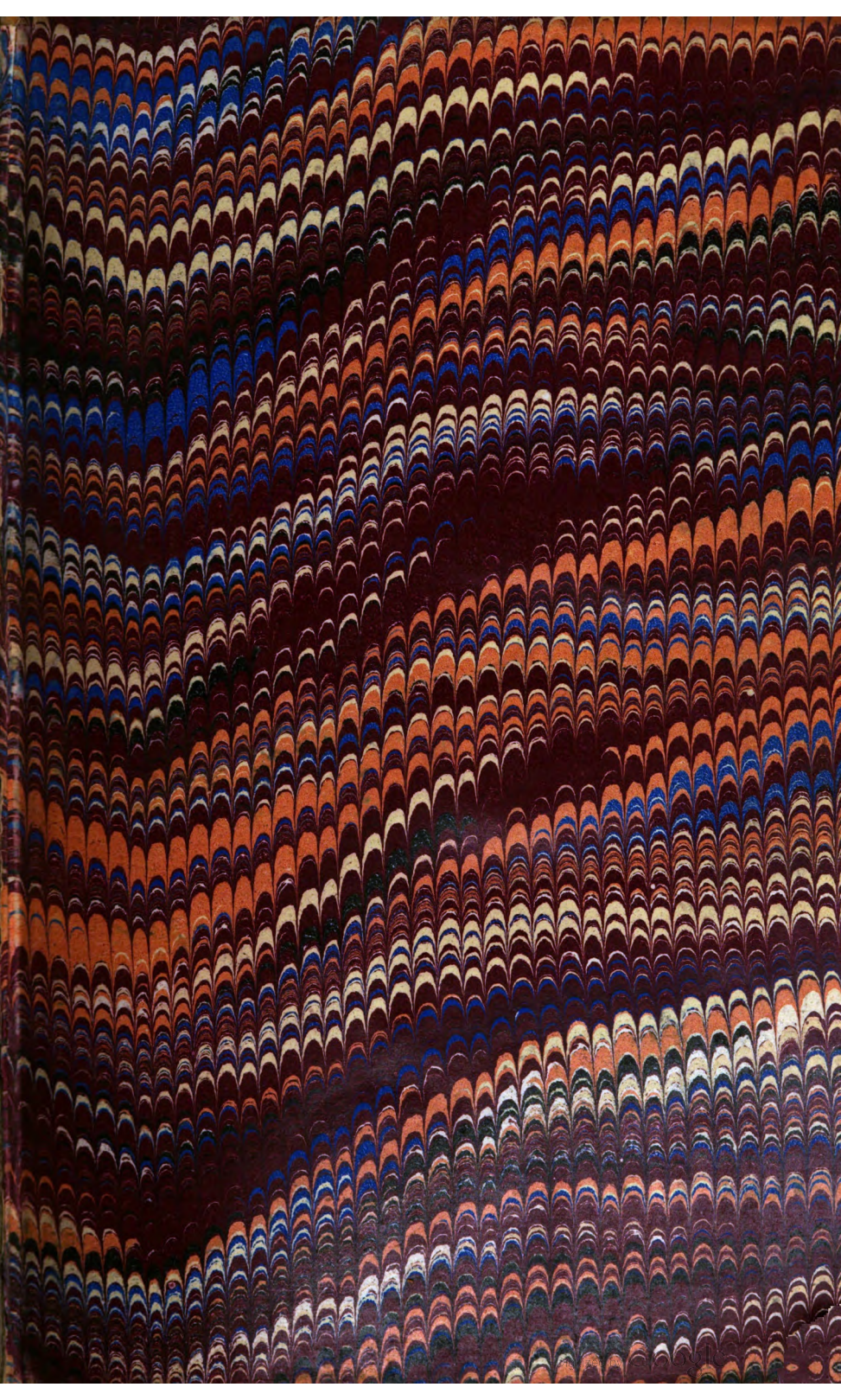
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AN
ANALYSIS
OF
HORSEMANSHIP;

TEACHING THE
WHOLE ART OF RIDING,
IN THE
MANEGE, MILITARY, HUNTING, RACING,
AND
TRAVELLING SYSTEM.
TOGETHER WITH THE
METHOD OF BREAKING HORSES,
FOR EVERY PURPOSE TO WHICH THOSE NOBLE ANIMALS ARE ADAPTED.

BY JOHN ADAMS,
RIDING-MASTER.

IN THREE VOLUMES.
VOL. III.

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TREATISE,

of c. of c.

THE ORNAMENTAL MANEGE.

THE part of horsemanship I am now going to treat on, is the elegant and ornamental, calculated only for the amusement and entertainment of the noblemen and gentlemen who have the means and convenience, with a disposition to delight and take pleasure therein; certainly, there cannot be a more rational amusement for those whose time is not wholly occupied by business of more weight and importance; as it is an exercise greatly contributing to health, which may be taken in moderation, agreeable to the constitution or inclination, and admits of such variety, holds out such prospects of attainments and excellencies, that the more a person acquires, the more

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he perceives there is to exercise his genius and talents. It is, indeed, an inexhaustible mode of entertainment, which occupies the mind, and all the rational faculties; and those who take delight in it generally excel, and seldom or ever tire so as to relinquish the exercise and amusement it affords, as long as health and vigour will permit—witness the late Sir Sidney Meadows, who pursued this amusement with unremitting ardour and unrivalled abilities to the extreme age of ninety-three.

No person is desirous of having a horse dressed agreeable to the high and ornamental airs of the manege, who is incapable of riding or dressing him himself; and this accounts for the few dressed horses we have in this kingdom, there being very few persons who have studied the art sufficiently to amuse and entertain themselves with it; even excellence in the useful and necessary parts of horsemanship is much neglected by those whose particular business it should be to acquire all possible knowledge of it: no wonder, then, that persons who have no
3 other

other conception of riding than to be carried by a quiet horse from place to place, or following a pack of hounds, should condemn a system; while many of those whose province it is to know so much, are much inferior horsemen to those who were never taught a single precept of riding.

I am of opinion, there would be more admirers and practitioners of the art, if it were attainable with less difficulty, or acquired by less capacity; the riding part requires attention to the precepts, with unremitting practice for several months, and awkward habits find difficulties they could wish to elude or skip over—this, in many instances, cannot be dispensed with, and this discourages gentlemen in the pursuit, when they find they can ride sufficiently to take their pleasure on the road, or follow a pack of hounds; hence the private soldiers, at least the major part of them, are observed to ride better than most of the commissioned officers, because they are compelled to attend daily the riding-drills without intermission; and even if the teachers are not very competent, a decent

position is pointed out, and the usual routine of regimental riding will make them ride in time preferable to those who will not submit to be taught. But if a private was left to his own judgment, he would, like the officer, dismiss himself from the riding-house under an idea he rode sufficiently well, before he knew how to stop or turn his horse correctly.

It appears to require some capacity to ride in a moderate degree systematically, from the difficulty we have of qualifying some men in riding, sufficient to join in squadron, and the many which I think it would be fruitless to try to make them proficient horsemen; but it requires a much larger capacity to undertake, with a prospect of success, the dressing of horses to the manege airs. Exclusive of being competent to ride in a superior style, it is necessary to have perfect command of temper, invincible patience, discriminating judgment, great forbearance, and a mild conciliating disposition; with these qualifications, fondness of horses, and a delight in the amusement,

ment, a person may promise himself success.

Let us first consider what high and ornamental airs of the manege are:—they are certain figures, actions, graces, attitudes, and exertions, drawn from the horse by the art and ingenuity of the master, and may fitly be compared to the figures, steps, graces, attitudes, and exertions, of the stage dancers; it is completely analogous, for neither the one nor the other is of further use, than amusing and entertaining—to shew the activity, graces, and exertions that each is capable of; now as dancing creates additional activity, strengthens the system, gives elegance and ease to the figure, so dressing does to the horse; and I think it will be allowed, few things are more attracting and fascinating to the eye, than to see a field-officer mounted on an elegant high-drest charger; but this is what we seldom see. The misfortune is, a high-drest horse has a thorough contempt for the rider, that cannot direct, control, and manage him by that system

of corresponding positions, delicate aids, and lightness of hand (that would not break a hair, while it keeps him in perfect subjection) by which he had been taught; for, when a high-drest horse finds no unison or consistency in his rider, that he is required to do something, but he knows not what, and prevented doing what he would, he consequently does what he can; then the agility and exertion he acquired in his dressing or education, becomes formidable to his rider, for he generally begins to cut such capers, as alarms and discomfits his rider.

I have said that these high airs are ornamental; as such, many are proper for parade, and when a commandant displays a proficiency in horsemanship, it portends the regiment will profit much by his discrimination and selection of proper and capable persons to ride it; for without he is a horseman himself, he can be but a very indifferent judge of others, unless their abilities are extraordinary, and very conspicuous, which is rarely to be met with.

The

The manege airs are drawn from the horse by extreme union, animation, and stimulation, and whatever is produced by these means in mildness and good temper, is pleasing, graceful, and desirable; but, if in anger and impatience, it is a vice and defence, consequently will be deformed and unpleasing: for instance, the pesade is an air in which the horse gathers his haunches so far, under that he raises his fore feet, and completely balances himself on the hind feet, which has a grand and beautiful appearance; but if a horse is pressed to a thing of this kind, before he has been previously worked progressively to be competent to it, or if he is defective in capacity from any weakness in his hind parts, or irritated by unkind or severe treatment, he would rear on his hind legs and paw with his fore, in a manner quite different from the pesade—this is vice and defence, and shows how patient and discriminating the horseman should be, not to require things prematurely, nor put a horse to that which nature has not qualified him for; these injudicious proceedings have

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spoiled

poiled many horses, and discouraged many persons from persevering in an art they found so inappropriate to their tempers and dispositions.

Whatever, therefore, you draw from the horse in good temper, chearfulness, and obedience, will come under the denomination of some of the airs I shall hereafter describe.

Every horse may be improved and embellished to a certain degree, but many are not appropriated to cut any figure in the ornamental airs of the manege; not but gentlemen may try experiments with every description of horses, as a mere matter of amusement and trial of skill; for beyond doubt many brilliant airs may be drawn from even heavy draft horses, some of which are elegant figures; but the powers of these horses consist in their weight more than in the bone and sinew, which, though large, are very often open and porous compared to the bone of a blood horse; therefore,

fore, if you draw action from them, it will be but momentary, for neither their strength or spirits can endure exertion for any time out of a walk, therefore, when you take these horses from the collar, you take them from what they were designed for.

I remember a horse of this description, about thirty-five years ago, was used in Cowling's riding-school; some of my readers, who were pupils there at that time, may recollect him—a brown-chesnut horse, with his tail close docked, and called Trojan; it was said Sir Sidney Meadows had bought him out of a stage-waggon, and, by way of experiment, had dressed him. His peculiar excellence was his curvets, which, if his action was not the most brilliant and lofty, his beats were as regular and true as possible; his piaffè was likewise correct, but not brilliant; his gallop was supple and united, and, for a heavy horse, remarkably smooth; he changed readily, and would stop at the instant the word halt was given, which was frequently given unexpectedly to try the
firmness

firmness of the pupils' seats, and create a little mirth.

Since amusement and exercise of skill may be practised on any horse, I shall not pretend to offer a description of some to the exclusion of others; gentlemen will select, if they require grandeur and excellence, such horses as they may reasonably expect to find these qualities in; the more natural qualities a horse has, the more may be expected from his acquired abilities.—Figure, blood, bone, strength, particularly in the haunches, houghs, pasterns, and fetlocks—great liberty and lofty action, lively, spirited, and good-tempered disposition—with these natural qualifications much excellence may be expected; but it is to be observed, that horses have their peculiar gifts as well as men; some excel in running, others in leaping; some in one action or air, others in another, and none arrive to perfection in every thing.

Foreign horses are much admired and selected

lected for the manège, some for their grandeur of figure, others for their fine and brilliant action; but almost every country on the continent have horses in some manner peculiar to themselves; many of grand figure and lofty action, but the blood and spirit so essentially necessary, are frequently wanting; and since our own English breed have been so much improved by the blood of the Arabian, we have no occasion to seek further for applicable horses for the manège; there is a combination of all the essential qualities to be found in some of our own breed, if you search and select with judgment.

There is such a variety of beauties in horses, that it would be madness to attempt to describe one for a pattern—twenty different horses might be selected as incomparable fine figures, and never two alike; all acknowledged to be beautiful, some preferring one, others another; but figure must not be the only consideration—spirit and action are the principal; pliant haunches and
houghs,

houghs, with high and animated action before, should be particularly attended to; nor must the blood or constitution be omitted, for a horse may shew a good figure and fine action, as many foreign horses will, without the courage, bottom, or constitution to endure the exertion for any continuance.

With these hints I shall leave it to gentlemen to select for themselves, and proceed to describe the various airs most admired by amateurs of manege excellence.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MANEGE AIRS.

OF THE MANEGE WALK.

I BEGIN with the walk, it being an air of the least animation and exertion, though not the first, or least difficult to teach the horse; it is more neglected and less admired than the natural walk, and for the same reasons, because its excellencies are confined to itself,

itself, being no wise contributory to the furtherance of, or preparatory to any other air; but is a relaxation of animation and exertion, lower than the slow disunited trot, while it retains an union which prevents its descending to the action and beats of the natural walk. The legs, therefore, are lifted as in the trot, or passage; the union, action, and beats constitute the difference.

The legs being lifted as in the trot, are in consequence of union without animation, taken up gently and put down softly, so that the time is slower than the trot, and the beats flat; a horse cannot lift his legs in the action and time of the natural walk, or trot without advancing over ground proportionate to the length of step, or quickness of action; but in the action of the manege walk, passage, or piaffes, he can move his legs in the action, and his feet beat the correct time of either of the airs, without his advancing; this is in consequence of the union, which constitutes the difference of position, action, time, &c.

Now

Now the difference between the manege walk and the passage, is less animation and union, which produce a lower action and languid step, and cause the beats to be flat by the feet not striking the ground so sharp as in animated action.

The excellence of the manege walk consists in a high action, where the step and animation are so languid, and the regular slow beats of one, two. The German, or foreign horses appear particularly adapted for this manege; it becomes almost natural to them, as you may observe in his Majesty's state-carriage horses; few English horses are ever taught it, and those that are attract but little admiration. A nobleman, a great patron of horsemanship, I have seen amusing himself with this manege on an English horse, but the talent and ability of the rider were more conspicuous than the action or figure of the horse; the taste of our countrymen is for something more animating and active; therefore, of all the manege airs, this has the least attractions or charms
for

for them : but those whose years or health will not admit of their taking stronger exercise, may find salutary exercise and amusement in this air, as all figures, passes, and movements can be worked in it, as in the passage.

As I shall not have occasion to speak again on the manege walk, I think it necessary to observe, that a horse must be worked and united to a considerable height previous to his being put to the manege walk ; and when the horse has been well established in the extreme union, so as to work the passage air to its greatest height, if you relinquish animation, without suffering the horse to disunite himself, you will let the action down to the manege walk. This is the only method to teach an English horse this air ; or when a horse has been worked, as I have described, you collect and support him to the union, without animating the action to a greater degree than requisite for the walk.

As

As nothing further need be said on this subject, I shall proceed to the next, first observing the passage air, being an useful as well as ornamental air of the manege, it was noticed in the first volume, and a description of it will be found in page 154.

OF THE PIAFFE.

There is such a similarity between the passage and the piaffe, that the passage, when worked on the same spot, or without advancing, is often mistaken for the piaffe, but a material difference will be found when both are explained:—the position of the horse in the passage, partakes of a two-fold bend, as described, the shoulders carried out, and the croup in; this position gives the horse liberty, with the greatest ease to himself, of traversing or passing sideways; therefore, when a horse passes sideways, he is erroneously said to passage, though he moves only in the action of the walk. If a horse moves forward in the action

tion of the passage, his feet from the attitude or position of his body will describe or work upon three threads, viz. if the position is supported by the right rein, which bends the nose to the right, while it retains the shoulders to the left; the inner, off, or right hind foot, will work on the inner or right thread; the inner, off, or right fore foot, with the outer, near, or left hind foot, will work on the middle thread; and the outer, near or left fore foot, will work on the outer or left thread; the feet describe the same threads in the united trot or gallop, therefore the action and time, with the above position, denotes or distinguish the passage.

Now observe the difference of the piaffe: the position of the horse in the piaffe has little or no bend, the horse works straight, and the feet describe or work on only two threads; his near fore and hind feet on one thread, and the off fore and hind feet on the other; in this position the horse can only work on his own ground, advance straight

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forward

forward, or retire backward; but if you require him to pass sideways, he must take the position of the passage. The piaffeis further distinguishable by a loftier action before, and a dancing or playing of the haunches, not unlike the plying of a chairman's knees to the swag of the poles; the action being loftier, and retained longer in the air, the beats are slower, and not so sharp as the passage: the action of the piaffe, I think is more beautiful, but the position or attitude I think less admirable than the passage.

There is another kind of piaffe, which horses that dart their foot out in the extended trot are inclined to, and for the novelty's sake is very admirable; these horses ply the haunches, raise the fore foot high, spring from the two feet on the ground, before the others arrive to it, so that they bound or dart forward, meeting the ground with a straight knee. I never saw but one of this kind drest to this piaffe; it was a black horse called Favorite, which went blind, and was

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sold

sold by Sir Sidney Meadows to Mr. Cowling for a school-horse. Now the distinguishing qualities of the piaffe from the passage, are a straighter position, loftier action, slower time, and the plying of the haunches.

The riding of this air requires the balance to be very true, the position, in conformity to the horse, quite straight, the reins so collected as to support the horse in a straight position, and the aids given to support the action with the greatest caution, that you may not alter the position of the horse by throwing his croup off the line ; the retention of the fingers will keep the horse on his ground, give him liberty to advance, or make him retire backward at your direction : but the bounding or darting piaffe which I last described, will not admit of retiring backward in that action—the horse must advance a little at every bound, and the action is extremely rough and difficult for inferior horsemen to preserve a true balance.

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OF

OF THE PESADE.

This air is highly ornamental, and displays the utmost union the horse can be brought to; it is derived from the passage, which, when worked up to its extreme height, so that nearly the whole weight of the horse is thrown on the haunches, the invitation of the hand, accompanied by the animation of the tongue, pressing, as it were, farther, causes the horse to rise forward, and gathering his fore feet into the chest, he is balanced on his bent haunches, in which position he will pause for the space of about five seconds; the hind feet, though scarcely or not lifted from the ground, appear to mark the time or beats, as though working the passage; when you ride a horse in this air, he does not rise so high as when worked in hand, by reason the weight of the rider would over balance him; but when worked in hand his body will be nearly erect. The pesade must never be requested of the horse

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till

till he has so far united himself in the passage, that he can deliberately raise himself completely balanced; then there will be no danger of the horse rising to overbalance himself, for the horse rises cautiously, and no higher than he feels himself secure. It is admirable, to observe the temper and steadiness with which the horse executes so arduous an air, shewing no impatience when he comes down, but continues the passage air till he is requested to make another pesade; two or three are the most that should be demanded at one time; more might discourage, and create disgust and reluctance, and so on to disobedience and defences.

When the horse does not bend his fore feet in, close to his chest, but projects them from his body, the pesade is not perfect; the perfection consists in the fore feet being close bent to the chest, and the length of pause the horse makes on his haunches; the higher the horse rises the longer he can support the air of the pesade, and the more grand and striking the effect.

OF THE MEZAIR.

In the first volume (page 172) I gave a description of the terre-a-terre, which is a gallop sideways; now the mezair is an air of higher union, founded on the terre-a-terre—it is a side movement of the horse, in an action derived from the gallop, as the fore feet follow each other, and then the hind feet in like manner; so is the terre-a-terre—now to describe the difference: first, the position of the horse is less bent, to admit the croup to work as forward nearly on their lines as the shoulders; for, in the terre-a-terre, the position of the horse on the lines he works, is the same as the passage sideways, or head to the wall, wherein the fore feet work about eighteen inches forwarder on their lines than the hind feet; the position of them in the mezair being square, his fore feet work only on one line or thread, and his hind feet on another; the beats of the fore feet follow so quick as scarcely

scarcely to be distinguished from coming to the ground together, and making but one beat, and the hind feet, as it were, immediately glide along their line in like close order. The union is necessarily very close, or otherwise the horse would be compelled to work on oblique lines with his body, as in the terre-a-terre, instead of lines, making a right angle with his body, which is the me-zair.

The me-zair, therefore, is an air worked sideways on two lines, making a right angle with the body, a closer union, and higher action before, and lower behind than the terre-a-terre, whereby the beats of the fore feet follow close to each other, and the hind feet, lifted but little from the ground, glide along, rapidly accompanying the fore feet to keep the position at the finish of every cadence true upon their lines.

To elucidate this further, I shall observe, that in the side movements of the horse in the lesson of head to the wall, and likewise the

terre-a-terre, the horse preserves his position on his lines in the midst of the cadence of the action working the shoulders and croup together; but in the me-zair the action of the fore feet throws the horse out of position till the hind feet finish the cadence, and place him true again.

From this description, I think, my readers may comprehend the air, and discriminate it from the terre-a-terre, though it were worked to that height as may be bordering on the me-zair.

OF CURVETS.

Curvets have the like analogy to the me-zair as the piaffe has to the passage; it is a similar action of the legs, but in a straight or forward direction, which capacitates the horse to raise his fore feet exactly together, of equal height and projection, and coming to the ground in like manner, they make only one beat, the hind legs accompanying them
make

make another beat. All airs derived from the action of the trot, beat the time of one, two, alternately, without space or intermission between the beats; and the beats are marked by two feet at cross corners, if I may be allowed so to express it, and are distinguished by quick, slow, sharp, or flat, beats; but the action of the curvet is derived from the gallop, inasmuch as the fore feet meet the ground without the intervention of a hind foot, and though the action derived from the gallop is generally distinguished by four beats in the cadence, yet this air only marks two, as above observed, the fore feet marking one, and the hind feet the other; the beats are sharp, and the hind feet quickly following the fore, so that a space appears between the cadence of each curvet.

Many persons account the action of the mezzair to be curvets; I admit there is a similitude, but that which distinguishes the proper or perfect curvet is the cadence being marked by only two correct beats; now the mezzair, like other airs derived from the

the gallop, marks four beats, though the beats of the fore feet are so close as to escape notice or pass for one, and the hind feet in like manner; and from this it may be asserted that a horse makes side curvets; but, on a critical observance, I think it will be found, when a horse makes side curvets, the action will be that of the mezar.

OF THE PEROUETT.

The perouett is an air in which the horse goes about in the gallop completely on his hind feet, that is, his inner hind foot becomes a centre on which he turns, and the beauty or height of excellence is to go about in one cadence of the air, which is the complete perouett.

OF THE STEP AND LEAP.

This, and the following airs of croupade and bolatade, are progressive steps toward the

the complete or finished air of the capriole. The step is, the horse collecting or gathering himself together, previous to the leap, and the leap terminates the air; so that to perform the second air, he commences again with the step, and finishes with the leap.

The air is performed on the ground the horse stands on, and he should not advance any with the leap, but alight on the same spot he rose from. The action of the step is derived from the passage, or piaffe, being the near fore foot and off hind foot working together, and the off fore foot and near hind in like manner, the action high before, and consequently low behind; the difference of the step from the passage or piaffe, is the faint or irresolute efforts the horse makes to rise the fore foot that is on the ground, while the other is in the air, or before its return to the ground; this constitutes what is called the step, and when the horse has raised both his fore feet from the ground, he makes a leap from his hind feet, and alights all four feet at the same time on the ground, and united;

united; this terminates the air, and of course he is necessitated to collect and unite himself again with the step, previous to his performing another leap.

OF THE CROUPADE.

The croupade is an air of higher action and animation than the step and leap; it is produced in like manner as above, but is a higher attainment and greater exertion; for the horse raises himself higher before, with his fore feet bent to his chest, which is a pesade, and then springing from his hind feet, he draws them up near to his belly, which is termed the croupade.

OF THE BOLATADE.

The difference between the bolatade and croupade is, that the horse springs higher, and while in the air he presents his hind feet, shewing his shoes, as though he was going to strike out.

OF

OF THE CAPRIOLE.

The capriole is the highest air, or greatest exertion you can draw from the horse; for in this he collects his whole powers, and springs to his utmost height; at which time he lashes out his hind feet to their full extent, and comes to the ground from whence he sprang, or at most not twelve inches forwarder. The horse in this, as also in the bolatade, collects his powers to spring in an action derived from the gallop, by the alternate working of the fore and hind feet, the same as a horse gives velocity and strength to his spring, by two or three quickening strokes in the gallop before he takes a flying leap; so in the bolatade and capriole he collects his powers by the alternate action of his shoulders and croup, without advancing one inch; the action of the legs not unlike the mezair, only higher behind, and after two or three cadences in this action to collect his powers, he springs into the air, and
lashing

lashing out his feet, completes the capriole; when the feet are not jerked out to their full extent, it becomes an air between the bolattade and capriole, and is termed a demy-capriole.

Thus having described the various ornamental airs, I shall proceed to point out the various means and methods of working, to be gradually pursued, for the purpose of drawing them from the horse.

*THE VARIOUS METHODS OF WORKING HORSES TO
THE EXTREME UNION.*

It is to be observed, the methods I have laid down in the second volume, should be previously worked, as by far the more mild and gentle method of making the mouth, or teaching the horse obedience and subjection to the bit; but the necessary restrictions of the hand, while the legs and whip are urging or pressing him together, frequently occasion the horse to defend himself in such manner

manner as you find it necessary to yield to him to avoid coming to a dispute, which would entirely subvert the purpose you are aiming at; therefore, when great restrictions are put on the horse, it is preferable to work him in hand, whereby, whatever reluctance or dislike the horse expresses, he has not a rider to contend with; and if you proceed judiciously, not expecting a performance before he comprehends what is required of him, nor require more than his patience can submit to, or his prowess execute, he will find it easier to comply with your wishes than contend about them. And it should be an invariable rule always to keep the horse in good temper, letting his improvement appear as his voluntary act, rather than compelled by the restrictions of the hand and severity of the whip.

The pillars appear to be the original invention and practice of the antient masters, but horsemanship, though much neglected, or practised by very few persons comparatively, has, like other arts, been greatly improved

proved by those few who have amused themselves with the study of the art. We need not read the ancient authors to satisfy ourselves in this particular; a bare view of the ancient prints is sufficient to satisfy us they effected much, or depended most on force and compulsion, if we may judge by the enormous cavison they used, with rings fixed at the end of pieces of iron projecting five or six inches from the nose-band, and operating as a laver to bend and confine the horse's head in a most painful and frequently unnatural situation; the strength and powers of their bits, the branches of which were frequently twelve inches long, the enormous spur, all of which indicate they relied chiefly on coercive measures; and the pillars seem to be a further corroboration of this opinion, as the pillars are the most powerful restriction the horse can be put under. But, since more mild and lenient measures have been practised with much better effect, the pillars are but little used. The single pillar is totally excluded from the riding-house, and the moving pillars substituted in its stead, which,

which is, the horse worked between two men in the several manners I am going to describe, by which you can put the horse under any degree of retention you find expedient, or that his temper will patiently submit to—the first method I shall notice, is that of working with the staff.

For this purpose, you are provided with a staff about six or seven feet long, to the upper end of which is affixed a strap, with a buckle, and billet to buckle to the outside eye of the snaffle; the length of strap from the extreme end of the staff to the snaffle (when attached to it) should be about six or eight inches; you must be also provided with long reins or hempen lines, about the thickness of a sash-line, but made of different materials; they should be made of the best long hemp for strength, and no kind of stiffening put in, but twisted loose that they may be perfectly soft and pliable; the lines should be from twenty-four to thirty feet in length (if you have them all in one) or half the length if you buckle them together in

the middle, at the ends of the line are small buckles and billets; these reins are applied in the same manner as you fix the running reins of the snaffle bridle, viz. each end passes through the eye of the snaffle, then through the ring suspended from the head-stall of the bridle (if you think it expedient) and then buckled to the loops of the saddle or surcingle; these reins you hold as you would the reins of any horse you were driving, viz. the outer rein lying over the forefinger, and the inner rein between the fore and middle finger, the superfluous line passing through the hand; you hold your lines at that length as you may be secure from the reach of the horse's heels, should any thing irritate him to strike out, and for which reason you should have a long whip in the other hand to animate, request, &c.

The assistant, having his staff buckled to the eye of the snaffle next the wall, places himself at a convenient distance before the horse, and his business is to prevent the horse traversing, or departing from the wall,

as

as also to endeavour to prevent the horse getting his head down to defend himself against the bit.

Now there is a considerable deal more skill attached to this performance than appears at first view, and particularly at first commencing to work a horse in this manner, for you are not now a part of the horse as when you are on his back, but, as it were, a moveable pillar, and as the fixed pillar retains and checks the horse from advancing, and supports the head to admit the haunches working under, so you, in like manner, retain the horse from advancing too rapidly, but permit his advancing in a slow and united action, whereby you unite the horse under a less severe restriction than the fixed pillar.

A degree of awkwardness is generally attached to any thing novel, whether from man or horse, and therefore it is to be expected the young practitioner will not immediately succeed agreeable to his wishes; but a little practice and great patience will

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accomplish

accomplish his aim, if he gives attention and study to the pursuit.

A horse that has been well rode to the union, will sooner comprehend and shew less dislike or opposition to this manner of working, than one unaccustomed to the union; and therefore will be preferable for the young practitioner to begin with.

Having, therefore, your lines and staff properly adjusted, lead the horse to the wall; let the horse advance slowly first in a walk, that he may comprehend his ground; then gently request him to unite himself, the hand supporting him for that purpose; if the horse does not obey, he will bear on the bit, and endeavour to advance faster than is requisite, and without uniting himself; the person with the lines may check, but the operation being downward, will not conduce to the horse raising his forehead to unite himself; it would, therefore, only confuse and deter the horse if forcibly attempted, from that quarter; but the person before with the

staff, can raise the head, and thereby bring the horse to obedience, and a light *appui*: this is the grand object of the staff, and, if judiciously managed, perfectly answers the intention.

The management, therefore, of the staff, requires some explanation or elucidation:—the short strap at the end of the staff is to be considered as a rein, and by the assistance of the staff you can cause it to operate in any direction that may be required, that is, backward, if the horse presses too forward; upward, if the horse is inclined to get his head down; to the wall, if the horse attempts to quit his ground, &c. Now as the hand would operate under such circumstances, so must you endeavour to make the staff operate in like manner, not by a forcible dead operation, nor a harsh abrupt tug, which would be like the correction of the hand; the first would cause the horse to loll on the bit, and produce no desirable effect, the other would alarm the horse, and cause him to hesitate whether he should advance

not, and a few repetitions would make the horse so angry that he would not work, but defend himself; the operation, therefore, of the staff must be mild and soft, the same as the hand would be if you could place it where the end of the staff is. The staff, therefore, must be pliant and easy, and if the horse attempts to force or loll on the bit, shake the rein with your staff as you would with your hand to deter him.

The staff is to support the head in its true point of elevation; this is a material thing to be attended to, for if you permit the head to be too low, the *appui* will be harsh, attempting to get an ascendancy, which is, not being under a light, pleasant, and easy control of the hands; in this situation, if you request more union, the horse would only quicken his pace, and not unite himself unless the head is raised. If you attempt to raise the head too high, you may raise the nose out of place; in this case the mouth will be fickle, and the *appui* unjust: this will deter the horse from uniting himself, for
when

when a horse unites himself he drops his nose though he raises his head, the same as when he gathers his haunches under to take a standing leap, though not quite so much.

The person with the lines, if the head is properly supported with the staff, will moderately feel the mouth, the inner rein acting in unison with the staff rein, supports a little bend, and the *appui* is to be light and pleasant, permitting the horse to advance slowly, and the whip presented to keep the croup to the wall, stimulates or keeps up the action; should the horse endeavour to press forward instead of working himself to the union, you check him by small tugs, not by the force of a dead pull, which would prevent the horse from working, but by shaking the reins, giving that strength in the operation as will prevent the horse advancing rapidly, but permit him to work slow and united; the hand, from the communication of the lines, should feel the cadence of every step in an extreme light *appui*, for whenever the

appui is strong, the horse is not sufficiently united.

As the horse advances, the person with the staff retires backwards, and great care should be taken not to impede his advancing; for if you do not retire as the horse advances, the horse checks himself upon the staff in a very abrupt manner, which stops his working, and frets or angers the horse; therefore, let the staff operate only to keep the head up, and prevent his departing from the wall; and while you keep the head in its proper situation, the person with the lines can regulate the pace he is to advance at.

The remarks I have made, with the annexed plate, I think will convey sufficient ideas to be improved by practice; awkwardness will naturally accompany the first attempts, but be mild and temperate with the horse, require but little, and don't expect him to work to the extreme: be content
to

to let him advance in a moderate union, and endeavour to make him work correct, that is, keeping a regular step without breaking time.

When practice has made this manner of working somewhat familiar to you and the horse, you will consequently aim at more union, working by degrees, not pressing the horse too much, for though you may get occasionally a few cadences of fine action and extreme union, you are to recollect that the horse cannot maintain that, and you must not press him for a continuance which would discourage him, but rather stop and caress him for it; time, and constant practice is the only means of bringing him to it habitually, so as to endure it a length of time. After giving the horse a moderate breathing with the lines and staff, you may shift your reins and ride him, to finish his daily lesson; and if you have worked him to any good purpose, you will soon perceive it in the riding.

When

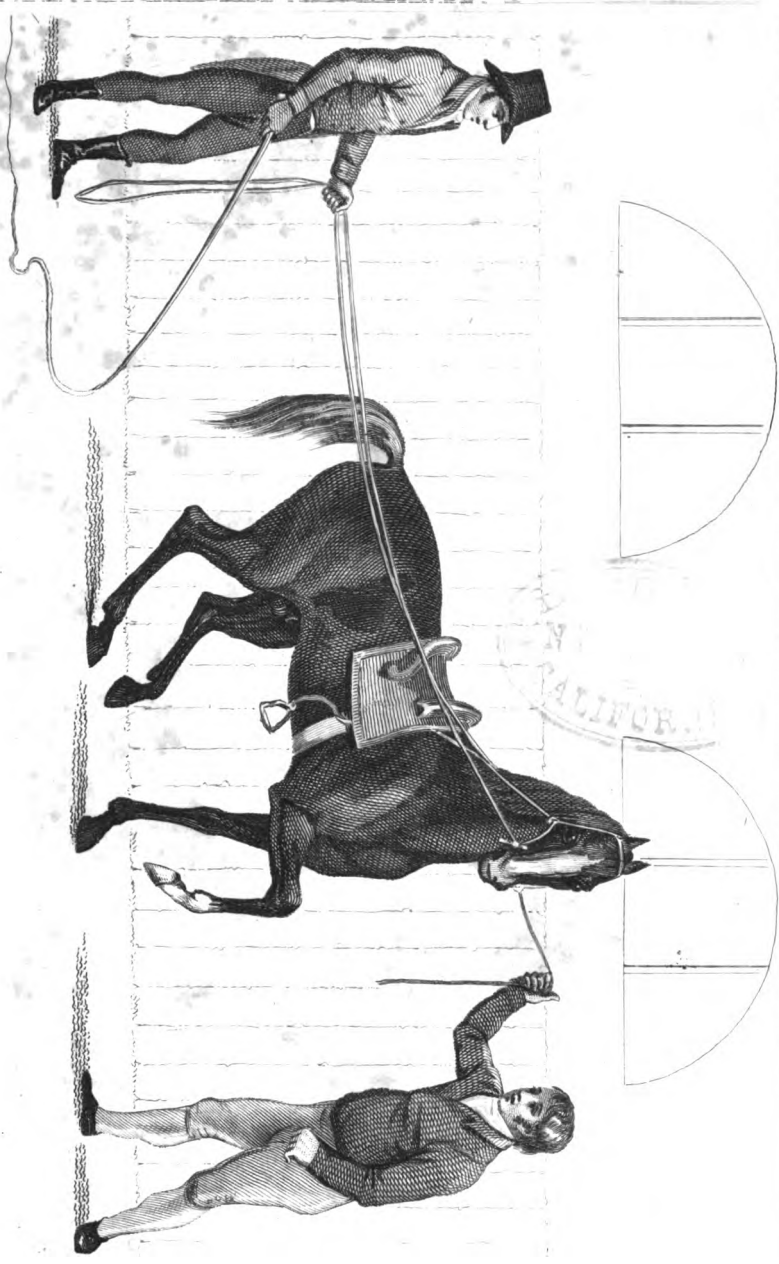
When you have worked the horse's head well up, raised the action before, and the haunches well bent and under him by the assistance of the staff, so that he habitually carries himself in that position, you may then work him in like manner without the staff, the assistant having a separate line or rein instead of the staff, with which he leads or directs the horse to the ground he is to work on; in this manner you can elegantly work the lesion of the shoulder within, the person behind supporting the position with the inner rein, and the assistant carrying his hand to the wall, directs the horse on his true lines, and prevents him departing from the wall—See the plate, which will sufficiently elucidate the manner I mean to describe.

I again remark here, that the reins are never to operate with a forcible dead pull, but all the operations of the hands are to be extremely light—the very weight of the lines is almost too much, for which reason you have them light as possible, and the operations of the fingers, when the horse is

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united,

From a drawing by J. H. Johnson.



Working in a hand along the Wall.

united, should be the lightest tugs you can possibly imagine. These lessons are all conducive to raise the action and unite to the extreme, which is the main or only thing you at present aim at, and therefore you are to invite as much union and action as you perceive the horse can patiently endure; but be careful of not insisting on too much: if the horse has proper courage, spirit, and animation, he will unite himself without your request; for if you treat a horse properly, that is, handle him masterly, not demand unreasonably, nor chastise wantonly, but caress and encourage him, the horse will delight, and have as much pride and emulation in his lesson as yourself; for which reason always be kind and good-tempered to him; a horse will fret with anxiety to please, and requires to be soothed rather to abate his ardour than increase it.

You can, for variety sake, work the head to the wall, cross over and work to either hand, and conclude with working straight up the middle, the assistant supporting the horse

on the one side, and you on the other. The daily workings in this manner for several months will perfect the union, and prepare him for the airs you may hereafter require of him.

When the horse has been worked for some time in the way I have described, he may then be worked in a more constrained or confined manner, by working him on the ground he stands on; this is something similar to the fixed pillar, but not quite so constrained, and the horse works upon the bit and support of the reins; if you chuse, you can place the horse between the pillars, and pass the lines through rings fixed to the pillars at about the height or elevation of the horse's head for that purpose; you having hold of the lines, place yourself at a convenient distance behind him, and request action—this you must do in the most moderate manner; if the horse bends his haunches well, and exerts himself much, let him stop after a few cadences, caress him much, and let him stand a short space before you request

quest him to exert himself again. If he works cool and deliberate, you may let him work somewhat longer, but at any rate this is so trying to the horse that one minute is a long space to be continued without a rest, and fifteen seconds are in general long enough; but at first putting a horse to work in this manner, you must proceed with great caution, and be satisfied with him putting himself together, without drawing a perfect cadence from him, but let him stop a few seconds, speaking in an encouraging tone of voice, and then proceed again; if you draw a cadence or two of perfect union, stop again, and encourage him by caresses: the horse, by these means, will perceive and comprehend your wishes, and by your caresses and encouragement will strive to please. But if you proceed too hastily with him, instead of studying to comprehend your meaning, he will become fractious, flounce about from one side to the other, and meditate how to extricate himself from the constraint he finds himself under.

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The method of working a horse in this manner without the pillars, is to have a ring fixed at a proper height in the wall, near one corner of the riding-house, and passing the lines through it, you place yourself behind him at a convenient or safe distance, and about five feet distant from the wall; the rein passed through the ring prevents his shoulders working from the wall, and the situation you place yourself in with the inner rein bending the head a little inward, and the presentment of the whip will keep the croup straight. As the horse, thus worked, requires frequent rests, he is usually placed in the pillars or the corners as here described, while working another horse, and worked at intervals; thus, by employing yourself with another horse, you are not so liable to work the horse beyond his patience, which you would be apt to do if attending to him alone.

Another method of working the horse to high action and close union is, by the assistance of a form or bench of about eight
or

ten feet long, and about ~~eighteen~~ or twenty inches high, on which you stand, and having the reins in hand, have a perfect command and power to work and raise the action to the highest degree of elegance; your hands, by having the short or riding reins, operate more correctly and delicately with the mouth, and you can raise the action to pesades, curvets, and the like, having liberty to let the horse advance the length of the bench in such airs you think proper to raise him to. The bench must be fixed firm and secure, that it may not be moved by the horse occasionally rubbing against it.

These being the usual methods of working horses to the extreme union, which is the basis and foundation of all the airs and excellencies in the manege, they must be daily persevered in and wrought to a degree of excellence before you should urge or press for more high or difficult performances. You conclude your daily lessons with riding occasionally, or in turn, all the airs the horse is worked to, or prepared to execute, always aiming

aiming to ride him up to the highest degree of excellence; hence, I conclude all the lessons that have been treated on under the head of useful manege in the first volume, have been his daily exercise, and his working in hand for the purpose of raising his action and giving him more close union, has contributed much to the ease, elegance, and grandeur of his figure and performance. It will now be proper to try at some of the more refined airs, particularly those which you perceive the horse has a natural aptitude or disposition to perform. I shall speak of them in the same order I have described them.

On the manege walk I have said all that is necessary, and, therefore, shall proceed to the next, which is the piaffe.

ON THE PIAFFE.

This air, though bearing a similitude to the passage, yet, by the description I have given,

given, may easily be distinguished; it is drawn from the horse in consequence of extreme union, and when rode you feel quite a different action under you from the passage.

The seat of the rider, in conformity with the position of the horse, must be quite straight; now in the passage, if you recollect, the inner thigh is more turned, and the inner hand and outer leg support a bent position; but the piaffe must be rode quite straight, the hands operating equally, and supporting the head quite straight, while the legs are both to act equally, supporting the action, and keeping the croup straight; the horse will not readily fall into the action of the piaffe, the passage being much easier for him, therefore he will naturally shift his leg, that is, he will work the passage, leading with the right shoulder; but finding the straightness of your position, and the operation of the hands not supporting or corresponding, he will shift, and lead with the left leg; still finding the rider and him not in unison with each other, (for you must

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persevere

persevere in keeping your own position straight, and endeavour to keep him so likewise,) he will, as 'it were, accidentally to appearance, make a cadence or two in the piaffe—the difference you will immediately distinguish, for which pause awhile, and caress him; then try again, aiming all you can to check the action of the passage, while you encourage the action of the piaffe; if you have patience, and act with mildness, the horse will comprehend the action you require, because you check the erroneous action by a discordant position, and the horse will perceive he is not in unison, but when he works in the action of the piaffe. Thus patience and perseverance overcome.—But, if you lose your patience, and handle him roughly, you would make the horse angry and violent—then all instruction is at an end, for that day at least, and, perhaps, for ever; therefore, no circumstances that may ever occur, should ruffle or disturb a horseman's temper.

The introduction of airs is a circumstance
that

that should be attended to, as it displays taste and propriety. The piaffe is admirable for parade, and the horse, in the action of the piaffe, without quitting his correct situation, is elegant in the salute, while inspecting officers pass; also, as you pass and salute the inspecting officer. In the repriezes you ride, it is usual to introduce it at the conclusion, piaffing up the middle of the riding-house in the highest action and slowest time, finishing with saluting the spectators, if any.

In the rotation I have described them, the pesade occurs next.

ON THE PESADE.

This air is highly ornamental, as I have observed, and is the test of complete union; for a horse cannot be more united than to balance himself completely on his haunches; extreme union, therefore, is the parent of this air, and the passage is the nurse, or mother of the union. It will be best to put the horse to this air first, in the lessons worked with the lines.

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When the horse has been worked in the passage air with the lines for such a length of time that his union has become established, so that he works in extreme union with apparent ease, without fermenting or fretting himself, you may conclude your lessons by aiming to draw a pesade from him ; to this end work him up the middle of the riding-house, pressing the horse to unite himself to the utmost, when you will perceive his forehead to be so light, that his fore feet press not a quarter part of their usual weight on the ground ; in this situation invite him to rise to the pesade, by an animating tone of voice, expressive also of good humour, accompanying it at the same time with an invitation of the hand, by giving the lines a small, mild, and animating tug ; should the horse rise to this, give him a light and gentle support from the lines, that he will perceive he is not abandoned, and the mildness of the effect will demonstrate that he is performing agreeable to your wish ; you must be mindful that the support you give is in no wise abrupt, or harsh, which would
alarm

alarm or deter him, while on the other hand if given judiciously, it will encourage and support him; when the horse performs, if but an effort of what you are desirous of obtaining from him, never fail to caress and encourage him profusely; for a horse is very sensible and proud of your approbation, and as with us, so with them, praise is greatly animating.

These airs of high and great exertion are not to be required too frequently, otherwise the horse would be discouraged, and take a dislike to them, for none of these high airs can be drawn from the horse against his inclination; it is the harmony and good understanding between you that produce them—the one requiring, the other striving to please; therefore, no unreasonable demand or inadvertent act of yours, should (if it can be avoided) disgust or lessen the concord or amity subsisting between you; for this reason, when a horse is perfected in the pesades, not more than two or three at once should ever be demanded of him at one time, letting about

ten or a dozen cadences of the passage fill the interval between each pesade, which concluding his day's exercise, encourage him with a reward; some will have a piece of bread cut in small pieces for the purpose; others a lump or two of sugar, a little wheat, barley or malt; in short, any thing that the horse will eat they have ready to give him out of their hand, which is a testimony of their approbation and fondness; and though it is but a comparative crumb, the horse when used to it will look as naturally for it as he does for his stated feeds; therefore, the merest trifle as a testimony of approbation is regarded even by a horse.

When the horse has been wrought to this air with the lines, he will easily be brought to pesade with you on his back.— You must commence with working him in the action of the passage to extreme union, and then the gentle invitation of the hand will cause him to rise in the pesade; the body must be kept as upright as you can support it, without holding on by the bridle. If
you

you support your seat properly and steadily, you may be certain the horse will keep himself securely balanced, nor will he raise the pesade higher than he can safely balance you and himself; but if you bring your body forward as when a horse rears, your hand would abandon the horse instead of supporting him, and your weight would be thrown on the shoulders, and prevent the horse rising or balancing himself; on the other hand, the body must not be more back than it can (as the horse rises) independently support itself, so that the hand is perfectly free to give that degree of support, it finds expedient either to invite the action higher, or retain it longer in the air; for this purpose the back must be kept hollow, and the hand steady.

From these observations, I think any person that has made progress in the system of riding which I have laid down in the first volume, may comprehend how to raise the action of the pesade.

This air may be introduced with much propriety in the like situations and circumstances as the piaffe, and when well executed has a most noble and grand appearance.

ON THE MEZAIR.

When the horse has been worked in the terre-a-terre up to extreme union and high animation, you may produce the action of the mezaïr by supporting the position of the horse more straight, and aiding the croup more forward than in the terre-a-terre; the body must be inclined backward to lighten and raise the action before, and, in conformity to the position of the horse, must be straight, the reins operating more equally than in the terre-a-terre; for in that air, the inner rein, by the position of your thigh and body, is carried outward to support the position of the horse, and retain the shoulders; (see the position as described in the gallop, vol. i, page 120;) but the position of the
mezaïr

mezair being more straight, and the croup as forward nearly on their lines as the shoulders, the shoulders do not require that retention as in the terre-a-terre, but liberty to advance; your position, therefore, being straight, gives that liberty; and your outward leg must attend to aid the croup on with the shoulders; the hand or hands are fixed in their proper situation, and are not to move; the shoulders are directed by the aids of the body, either to stay them, or permit them to advance, for the least imperceptible turn of the body will effect this.

From the above description I hope and think I shall be understood (particularly by those who have studied and practised the former part of this work,) how you are to produce the position, action, and air of the mezair. It is an elegant air, and much greater exertion of the horse than the terre-a-terre, consequently a long continuance of it would be extremely distressing to the horse.

The

The higher and more distressing airs are usually introduced at the conclusion of a reprieze; this, consequently, is proper to finish.

ON CURVETS.

This air is produced from the horse by retention and increased animation: for instance, when you are working a horse in the passage or piaffe, if your animation is too high for the action of those airs, the horse raises the two fore feet together; this commences the action of the curvet, and the action of the hind feet finishes it; the main object to aim at, is to make the horse raise his fore feet so exact and equal, that they shall mark but one distinct beat, and the hind feet in like manner; making but one other distinct beat; this finishes the cadence of the air, and constitutes the true curvet—not but the action is much admired when some what short of this perfection.

The curvet appears to have a like analogy to the action of the mezzair as the piaffe has
to

to the passage, and, in like manner, is drawn from the horse by confining his position as straight as possible, by which you do not indicate a leg he is to lead with. The bench or the wall as has been described, is a proper method to assist your attempt, therefore, confining the position straight, a quickening animation will raise the action before; let an assistant stand beside his forehead with a light switch, and, as he raises his fore feet, aid with the switch on the leg that is withheld, to induce the horse to raise it with the other; your aids are not to be so sharp as to irritate the horse and make him angry, but mild and gentle, only to make him take up that leg with the other; if the fore feet are taken up together, the hind feet will surely accompany them in true order. Encourage the horse's endeavours, and if you do not succeed at first to the extent of your wish, patience and perseverance will effect it in the end.

When a horse has been thus taught to curvet, he may easily be rode to it, but it
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is an air of too great constraint to be continued for many cadences. It is an air expressive of readiness and obedience, and is generally introduced at setting off a second time, that is, after you have rode one reprieze, and halted a while to take breath; when you commence again, which is generally the concluding reprieze, and to finish with such airs as are derived from the action of the gallop, you collect your horse, and make two or three curvets previous to setting off. Curvets, therefore, preparatory to ready and rapid movements, and under such circumstances are introduced with great propriety; as when an aid-de-camp is receiving orders from the general, the horse on the curvet shews readiness and impatience to start the instant the final word is received. When cautionary words are given for a rapid and quick movement, the horses are all collected ready to start at the word *march*—in this instance an officer's horse on the curvet has an elegant and grand appearance.

ON

ON THE PEROUCETTE.

A horse should be worked to extreme union, and most of the preceding airs, before he should be put to the perouette; it is an extreme difficult air, and few horses attain perfection in the execution. The *terre-a-terre*, *mezair*, and *pesades*, are preludes or airs that should be worked to great perfection previous to the perouette; these airs should be worked on the volt, gradually lessening the circle you work on till the hind feet form the centre on which the fore feet work on; patiently and progressively working these airs till you arrive at this perfection, you may next aim to complete the volt in as few cadences of the air as you can; this is done by raising the action as high before as possible, and the aids of the body leading the shoulders as far round as you can. For this purpose, if working to the right, the body must lean to the right, and be turned to the extreme, so that your eye is directed

4 round

round to the horse's croup ; your hands being fixed as a part of the body, turns the shoulders as you turn the body. When you have made a warrantable progress in this manner, you will finally attempt to complete the perouette in one cadence of the action ; to effect this, in addition to the aids of the body as above described, raise the action before to the height of a pesade, bend the horse round with the inner hand, the body being well turned as directed, the outer hand will forcibly assist the inner hand in leading the shoulders round, and in time will effect the perfect perouette.

The introducing this air is applicable when working the passage, which is working an air from one point to another, and back again, without quitting or deviating from those lines ; hence, if you gallop your horse on a straight line, and intend to return on the same line without quitting or deviating from your ground, the horse must perform a complete perouette at the end of the line to return on the same.

For amusement, and trial of skill and excellence, the perouette is as high a finished air as any of the manege.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PILLARS.

The following airs lead me to speak of the fixed pillars, as being best appropriate for bringing a horse to perform them; and for the information of those who chuse to have such in their riding-houses, I shall give some remarks on them, they being exploded out of the military riding-houses, and the academic riding-houses that have them, seem to use them for no other purpose than to have the leaping-bar always fixed ready for use.

The pillars themselves should be in substance about eight inches diameter, and stand above the ground about seven feet; the space or distance between the pillars for the purpose of dressing horses to the following airs, should be about four feet, but if mostly used for the purpose of a leaping-bar,
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five feet would be better. Through the centre of the pillars, holes should be bored at about the distance of six inches apart, and sufficiently large for stout pillar-reins made of three-inch rope to pass freely through; in the inside of each pillar a groove to receive the spindle of a leaping-bar, with pin-holes at the sides to fix it to any height. A stout leather collar, not unlike a stall-collar, with iron rings on each side the nose-band, sufficiently large to receive the straps at the end of the pillar-reins. The pillar-reins should be made of the best long hemp, loosely twisted (that they may be pliant) and about three inches in circumference; at the end of each rein a stout strap and buckle, to fasten to the collar; the reins about nine feet long will be sufficient to pass three times through the pillar, and the end brought round the outside of the pillar, and passed between the pillar and rein above, will hold or jam it fast if any exertion of the horse should make it liable to draw. These reins being passed through, suspending from the hole about six feet high, and

and adjusted to that length that will preclude the horse, when gathered as close as possible, from passing his croup beyond the pillar, will scarcely ever want altering. If the reins are too short they will not admit the horse to advance far enough between the pillars, and then the croup would have the liberty of traversing too much; and if too long the horse would be able, when he raises his forehead, to pass his croup beyond the pillar, and turn his croup round.

Rings on the inside of each pillar at the height of about six feet, should be sunk within the pillar, so that neither horse nor rider should rub or injure themselves against it; these rings are intended to pass the long reins through, when, you work with them. If it is intended to ride much, and sit the capriole between the pillars, five feet space between them will be best.

From these observations, those who never saw, or knew the use of the pillars, may have them properly constructed.

The pillars were formerly in great use for purposes of extreme union, before the methods I have described were brought into practice; the great restriction on the horse, the impatience of such horses who do not freely unite themselves, and the irritable tempers of some teachers when a horse does not perform to their minds, have occasioned the spoiling of many a horse that has been put in them. I mention these circumstances not wholly to discourage the use of them, but that those who attempt to work with the pillars may fortify themselves with patience and forbearance, without which there will be but little prospect of success. The manner of proceeding will be sufficiently explained in the following airs.

ON THE LEAP AND STEP.

To bring the horse to this air, which is the first progressive step towards the capriole, place the horse in the pillars, by buckling on the collar, and the pillar-reins
to

to it; retiring then a convenient distance behind the horse with your long whip, commence in the mildest manner to request him to work and unite himself; the method being new to the horse, and feeling the check from the pillar-reins, he at first will not comprehend it; if the check was abrupt or severe, it will naturally surprize and confuse him: let him stand a little to recollect himself, and discover that you are not angry or displeased at him, and he will become reconciled; then mildly request him to work again; it is probable he will be now aware of the confinement he is under, and proceed with more caution; if he coolly advances into the collar, and makes but half an imperfect cadence desist and encourage him, for he scarcely knows what you require of him, and in a few seconds would be angry were you to let him proceed; therefore, stop in time, that he may again recollect himself, and cool his temper, if it was rising to anger. In this cautious and deliberate manner proceed, always desisting before the horse's temper is irritated to that excess as

would drive him into resistance, and encouraging every effort he makes to unite himself; in time he will become reconciled to the restriction of the pillars, and will work and unite himself freely in them.

When you have thus far proceeded, you request the horse to work the haunches as far under as induces him to hesitate in the action of the fore feet, whether they shall both be lifted from the ground; this constitutes the step, at which time the stimulation of the whip or switch behind will cause the horse to leap—this finishes the air, for which caress him, that he may understand he has performed as you would wish, for the first leap is produced mostly in anger; the horse, not comprehending what you require, makes the leap in a pet, which he after perceives by the approbation you express, and the encouragement you give him, was what you required.

Let the horse stand a little to take breath, recollect himself, and cool his temper, while

you caress and encourage him; then proceed again, and effect another, which, most likely, will be more readily performed; for whether the horse clearly comprehends your aim or not, he finds a degree of respite at the finish of the leap, and that will induce him to make it without much stimulation; and in time he will thoroughly comprehend your meaning, and make two or three without a respite, which are as many as you should at any time require.

The intention of this and the following airs, are to practise and give strength and firmness to the seat; for sitting the ordinary paces of the horse with ease and comfort to yourself, is no confirmation of your safety when a horse kicks or plunges; and, though a strong seat is not the criterion to judge of the proficiency of the horseman, yet it is a desirable and necessary acquisition, giving great confidence and boldness to the rider, and the frequent practice strengthens those muscles that are exerted in maintaining the seat; now practice cannot be had but at

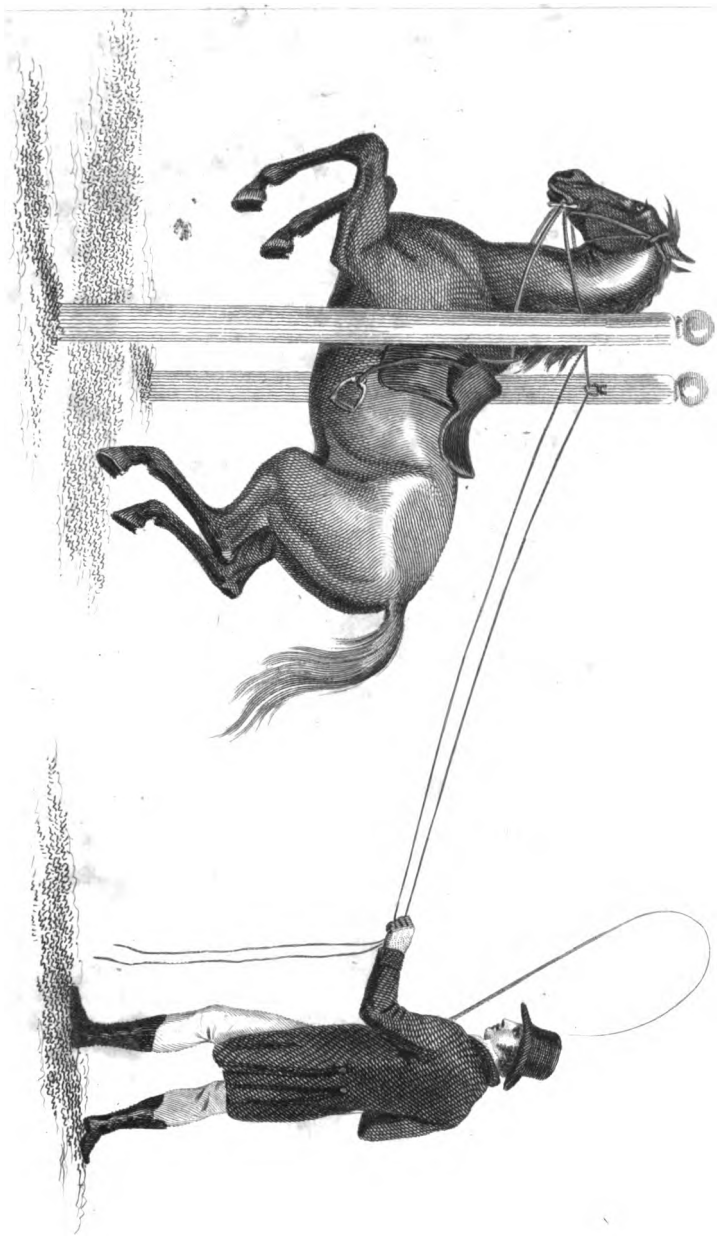
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some

some risque or hazard to the rider, unless upon such horses as are dressed to this description of manege, and with these horses; and the attendance of a master, you are perfectly safe, the horse desisting the instant required.

THE CROUPADE.

Little difference in point of procedure is required to produce this air, which is one step forwarder towards the finished air of the capriole; if the horse has an aptitude and disposition for these airs, he will soon be brought to it, and without which it will be as well let alone, as very coercive means would only produce irregular and intemperate action, and possibly render the horse desperately vicious; therefore, in proceeding with these airs, much regard should be had to the disposition and ability of the horse: nature has not furnished every horse with powers to execute these airs, and where there is weakness and defect, or even an



—a. T. Smith by the artist.

The (Temperance?)

Temperance and the other things.



averse disposition to such uncommon exertion, little hope can be entertained of favourably succeeding.

These points considered, you must request till the action rises before to a demi-pesade, at which time endeavour to stimulate the croup by the irritation of the whip, or the application of the switch, if you are placed where you can apply it, that is, if you are conveniently behind, you will apply the whip, but if you are placed one on each side the haunches, the application of the switch may be better, and may induce the horse to spring and gather his haunches under him, which constitutes the croupade; these measures pursued, may, in time, produce what you require, but you are not to expect a perfect croupade immediately. These methods, or such like, are to be pursued and persevered in for a time, and probably success may crown your endeavours in the end.

BOLATADE AND CAPRIOLE.

After the description I have given of these airs, and the methods pursued in the preceding ones, little more remains to be said on this subject—it is a continuation of the same manner of working to obtain a greater or higher degree of exertion. The lines may be used to enliven and raise the action before; the horse being now accustomed to this manner of working in the pillars, will comprehend that the stimulations and invitations of the whip or switch are to require his greater exertion, and if he has powers he will freely give it; at first being put in the pillars, such forcible demands would have excited anger and resistance, but now in a manner understanding for what purpose he is there placed, he will answer your demands if you are not unreasonable. A horse must have a considerable time to work, and bring himself to the performance of these airs;
till



The Rejected.

Pub. by the London and Westminster Press, London.

From a painting by J. M. W. Turner.

till such time as the horse appears to be aware of the constraint of the pillar-reins, you must demand moderately, for it is much more difficult for the horse to spring perpendicular with all his fore feet from the ground, without advancing, than it is to leap; the horse, sensible of this, and of the confinement of the pillar-reins, as he works and gathers himself for the spring, will rather retire within the limits of the pillar-reins, to favour his leap, returning, perhaps, a foot in advance; such is allowable, because it cannot be expected the horse will at first be able to perform as practice will afterwards enable him.

Your first object, therefore, in teaching these airs, is to animate and induce the horse to leap as high as you can, and then, the instant he is at his height, throw in the stimulation of the whip or switch, just under his haunches, to induce him to strike out with his hind feet; if he only presents his feet as though he was going to strike out, it is the *bolatade* only; if he throws his heels out half way, it is a *demi-capriole*; but if he
jerks

jerks out both his heels to their full extent, it is the complete capriole.

From this it appears the horse must leap a considerable height, to enable him to finish the capriole, because of gathering his feet under him in time to meet the ground; hence, if the horse has the powers of completing the capriole, if you do not work him up to his utmost exertion, or he is not very free in exerting himself, he will only perform a bolatade.

When a horse has been thus taught and worked to the capriole, he may be rode in like manner, either between the pillars or at large. Pupils are generally placed in the pillars, and the master attends and works the horse to such height as his pupil is able to sit. The seat is maintained in the same manner as I have described in vol. ii., p. 68; the hand acting lightly on the mouth, not to deter the horse from leaping, but yet to retain him in hand, so that he does not spring forward. Some horses are exceedingly rough





The Capriole.

Printed by W. H. St. John, London.

Printed by W. H. St. John.

rough in this action of the capriole, and require all your exertion and strength of muscles, particularly of the calves of the legs to keep your seat, and the body must have its corresponding position, or no power of the muscles can keep you in the saddle; therefore the back must be kept hollow, and the body well back. These rough-action horses are admirable for a pillar horse in schools, and the correctness of the capriole is not so much regarded; they are as sensible for what purpose they are so worked as the rider, and exert their utmost to try his seat; hence they will repeat their second leap as quick as possible, if they find they loosen the seat in the first, for they appear to have as much ambition in foiling the rider, as the rider has in defying their utmost attempts; but they desist the instant the word is given, or the rider removed, so that there is no danger.

But when the capriole is regarded for its correctness and elegance, it is rode without the pillars, and is esteemed for the close doubling up of the fore feet to the chest, and

and jerking out their hind to their extent, and alighting on the same ground he rose from; you must request this by the animations of the whip, and the retention of the hand, which puts the horse to work himself for the high or finished leap; at the instant he is up in the air, aid with your whip behind if he is tardy at lashing his feet out,

The exertion of this air is so great, that not more than one or two correct caprioles should be required at one time, and that usually at the conclusion of their daily workings.

Horses that are drest, and much worked to caprioles, are almost sure to try the seat of any strange person that mounts them; they seem to take a pride in alarming strangers—if they sit firm, they desist, and if the person is competent to ride them, go as quiet as with their master, but seem to have a great contempt for those who ride without system, or professional judgment.

Thus

Thus I conclude the manege, in which I trust I have noticed every thing that is worthy of remark, for I think it needless to mention old and obsolete practices. There is a vast entertainment in the practice of what I have written, but persons of ingenuity and skill will be ever finding out new methods, and trying experiments; some, perhaps, may be improvements, and some only fancied improvements.

APPENDIX.

STABLE DIRECTORY.

MANY persons, some of whom were formerly pupils of mine, have expressed a desire that I would introduce this subject (which was not my original intention) urging the propriety and necessity of it at the present alarming crisis, when we are threatened with invasion, by an ambitious and enterprising foe, in the event of which our numerous loyal volunteer and yeoman cavalry, would immediately step forward and subject themselves to the like duty as privates in regular regiments of cavalry, and would consequently

sequently be obliged to look after and groom their own horses. From these representations I have further considered, that if gentlemen are not even under the necessity of looking after their own horses; many would like to have every information of the stable department, whereby they may be enabled to form some judgment of the competency of their grooms; for it is not the good fortune of every gentleman to have a professed groom, and many undertake an employment of this sort that scarcely know how to do any thing about a stable; and while gentlemen do not inform themselves of the necessary duties and business of the stable, they are likely to be greatly imposed upon or injured through the ignorance, indolence, and artfulness of pretended grooms; for, little as may be thought of the merits of looking after a horse, I have made the remark, that not more than one in ten, upon the average, of stable-men employed in livery-stables and dealers' yards, knows how to simply clean or dress a horse, though this is the first or principal thing required of them, and
nearly

nearly all they have to do, after they have followed the employ for years, and appeared to be industrious pains-taking, men who did not spare their labours; so that there is evidently more art attached to this profession than at first occurs to our imagination.

There are certain natural qualifications and properties, which should be preferred and sought after, if they can haply be found in the person that has the care and management of valuable horses; he should be sober, mild, and patient in his temper, so that he may not be easily provoked; for I have seen material injury done by passionate persons incautiously striking horses in a most violent and malicious manner with whatever might be in their way; sometimes the corners of the curry-comb, the broom-stick, twitch-staff, stable-fork, and the like: he should be an industrious person that is not sparing of his labours at any hour or season; for horses require a deal of labour to make them fresh and comfortable, and if a groom is sparing

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of his labour, the horse will be the worse for it; and, though an indolent groom may escape the censure or complaints of persons not very particular or discerning, yet those who are judges cannot be imposed on—the appearance and condition will discover itself, and cannot escape their notice; for when a person knows that every thing is allowed to keep his horses in proper condition, and also knows when his horses are in that condition they ought to be, he will never be satisfied to see them otherwise. There is no good groom that has not a pride in his horses, to see them and every thing in his department in the first style of condition and cleanliness, and this ambition is the grand stimulus to his industry, for he labours to outdo all his competitors. With these natural qualifications there are practicable acquirements, which, with attention and observation, and an apt capacity, may be attained.

The grand and principal aim of a groom is to put and keep his horses in what is termed condition—let us, therefore, consider
what

what is condition. The word condition is variously applied to the horse, though widely different from what is here implied; for instance, we say a horse is in condition for sale—that implies he is in flesh, his legs clean and fresh, his coat decently fine, and perfectly sound; a horse may be all this, but not in condition for work. Another horse is said to be in good working condition; such might be said of a post-horse, that is bare of flesh, his joints enlarged, and puffed with wind-galls; yet this horse is capable of doing much work, and his being worked more than was requisite to keep him in condition, has put him out of condition. Condition, therefore, without an expletive, implies that perfect state of body and limbs, in which the whole system is the most vigorous, and capable of great exertion, if required; and this cannot be obtained or kept, without strictly adhering to three things, viz. proper food—proper grooming—and proper exercise; neither of these must be omitted, or injudiciously administered, for, like unto medicine properly administered, it

does good, but is capable of doing much injury, if profusely taken or misapplied. Wine, in moderation, cheers the spirits and invigorates the body, but taken to excess, debilitates and weakens the constitution. The food of the horse consisting only of hay and oats, and his drink only water, may be thought of such simple and inoffensive qualities, that only withholding them from the horse would do him injury; but quality and quantity, proportioned to his habit of body or constitution, must be particularly attended to. If the quality is bad, it will make him foul, and will not afford the nutriment that clean wholesome food yields; if you feed too plentifully for the work or exercise the horse has, you will make him too fleshy and gross, and probably make him fly to pieces, as they term it; that is, he will become languid and dull from the blood being too thick—his stomach over-charged, and want of digestion, a fever ensues, or he breaks out in humours, mostly about the legs, or places most remote from the heart, where the thickness and foulness of the blood

prevents a free circulation ; again, if you disproportion your feed by giving him too much hay, this will cause him to drink freely, and run to belly ; blowing him out with this description of food which affords the least nutriment, a horse cannot endure much labour, and his wind will be distressed. Hay is the natural food for the horse, but not the most heartening to work upon ; therefore, a horse to be kept in condition, must be fed sparingly of hay, but that of the very best quality. To ascertain the quantity of hay a horse should have, depends much on his size, his constitution, the nature of his work, &c.; hence, if a horse is put to fast work, his food should be of that quality that affords the most nutriment, lies in the smallest compass, and requires the least water to digest it, whereby the horse's wind will be the least distressed. If his work is hard, that is, continued for several hours, but not at any extraordinary speed, he may have more abundantly of hay, and even beans with his oats. Chaff, if sweet and good, is proper for some horses, such as

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have

have thin light carcasses, and do not work hard; those as eat their corn greedily, without masticating it, and it comes away whole in their dung, a handful or two of good sweet chaff with such horses will be infinitely serviceable, as they will be obliged to chew and masticate the oats with the chaff, before they can swallow it. But though chaff is filling and cooling, it must be sparingly given to horses required to be in condition; it fills a horse and makes him drink, by which he will appear plump and fair to the eye, but not in condition to work. It is most proper for slow draught horses.

To convey some idea of the quantity of hay that may be necessary for a nag horse, I shall say from eight to sixteen pounds per day, according to size, constitution, &c., so that if we take the medium about twelve pounds will be found generally sufficient; but large carriage horses will require more, we may say from sixteen to twenty-four pounds per day. Having mentioned an indefinite quantity, judgment, according to circumstances,

circumstances, must direct the rest. If your horses get lank and more hollow in the flank and quarters than you like, you must increase their usual allowance; but on the contrary you must not, for the sake of having your horses fat and plump, supply them with too much hay and water; a horse, when fat, is less fit for work than when lean and poor, provided that poverty was not occasioned by starvation, for a horse may be lean and poor by his work exceeding his keep; or if a horse is stinted to an allowance that would keep him in a tolerable plight with only a little walking exercise, and then is put to work without an increase of food, he will of course become thin; but if you have not taken so much of him as to exhaust his strength as well as his flesh, he will become nothing the worse for it; increase his feed, and he will be better for work than before.

A horse that is full of flesh, though it may be in consequence of good and wholesome food, with good looking after and re-

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gular

gular exercise, is, nevertheless, not in that condition that is most desirable; for his flesh in this state is an incumbrance, and were you to put him to an excessive day's labour before you had gradually reduced his flesh, it might throw him into a surfeit, or the like.

Good oats is the hearteningest and best food for saddle horses, if given in proper quantities; this must, in some measure, be proportioned to the work or exercise the horse has; you may keep a horse in condition with three quarters of oats per day, provided his work is no more than exercise; but if you work much, you must increase his feed proportionably and according to his constitution, some horses being much heartier feeders than others. If the horse is kept to constant hard work, you are in no danger of over-feeding him, if you were to give him as much as he could eat; but high feed without work would, as I have observed, make him gross and unfit for work.

Beans

Beans are good and heartening food for working horses, but not proper for horses whose work is light, nor for horses who are required to go at speed; they require more water to digest them, and swell, consequently cannot but distress the wind of horses required to go fast, and would be too gross for horses that have not plenty of work; they may be allowed to horses who travel much at a moderate rate, draught horses, and the like.

Water is usually given twice a day. Soft water is esteemed preferable to hard spring water; hence, rivers and running streams are better than water pumped from a fine spring; where such are not handy, springs that supply ponds, where the water gets impregnated and softened by a loomy or chalky soil, will be better than hard spring water. The quantity in this must be directed by circumstances, size of the horse, constitution, &c.; some horses will not drink immoderately, and may be left to their own discretion, while others, if you let

let them, would swill, and render themselves incapable of work, causing immoderate perspiration, and distress of wind; such must be restrained to a moderate quantity, that they may be fit for work if they are instantly wanted; when the work is done for the day, water may be allowed in reason; but some horses will always require to be allowanced, or they would drink greedily, and enlarge their bellies like unto cows; it is not a bad sign, nor should a horse be rejected on account of a large belly; it is a sign of good constitution and a good feeder, and nothing is more easy, with proper feeding and exercise, to bring it to proper shape. Half a stable-pail of water is generally sufficient for the morning; in the evening the horse may drink more plentifully, if his belly does not get over large, which is to be much attended to, for by that you are to regulate his allowance of hay and water.

The foregoing remarks, relative to feeding, may suffice for the present. I may
make

make further observations, as it may occur in the daily employment in the stable, and shall proceed to notice things in that routine which is daily to be pursued. Stable hours should be kept with strict regularity—all animals appear to have a knowledge of time, and it may be observed, in many instances, they observe the periods as correctly as we who have recourse to time-pieces; witness the dog, who, if he is accustomed to receive any thing from your plate at meals, never fails to attend at the dinner-hour, though in the intervening time he will be roving a great distance; the poultry that scratch and seek for insects and worms round adjacent places, will, at the accustomed hour assemble at the door they are fed at, and appear to know the time with great exactness; pigs and cows in like manner: no wonder, then, that the horse, which I may aver is not less sensible than any of these, should know his stated hours, and if he is not attended, particularly to feed and water at the accustomed time, will be watching and fretting with much anxiety, and

and oftentimes will call and ask for his food in such manner, as those accustomed to horses cannot fail to understand; regular and stated hours should be punctually attended to, with little variation, as the season or circumstances may require; five o'clock in summer, but as the days shorten a later hour is admissible, unless horses are to be ready at an early hour for hunting, or otherwise; in such cases, two hours at least before they are wanted the stable should be visited—if you do not allow yourself sufficient time, things cannot be done as they should.

The first thing to be done at going to stable, after casting your eye round to see if any horses are loose, cast, and the like, is to rack and feed. The judgment in racking, is to give the horse but little at a time, that he may eat it with an appetite, clearing his rack, and picking up his crumbs. If a horse leaves hay that is good and sweet, some cause must be assigned for it, and it should be examined into—sometimes the
cats

cats will foul the hay, and horses are very nice in their food when not kept scanty. If the horse appears to be in health, and the hay has not been blown on by other horses, but is fresh and sweet, I should judge he is too plentifully fed, leaving hay for the sake of oats; this should be guarded against; therefore, if you give hay that is good and clean in moderation, I would recommend to shorten his allowance of oats, to bring his stomach to the small quantity of hay that I recommend to be given. His morning's racking should be one quarter of his daily allowance, which, on the average, is about three pounds for his breakfast; for abundant feeding in the morning is not good; a horse cannot work pleasant to himself when over full, and therefore feed sparingly in the morning, lest you may want some exertion from him, and not suppose that a full belly will make him perform better; it is the food which he has digested, the nutriment of which is then in his veins, that is to support him, and not what you cram into him at the time you want great exertion

exertion from him ; a good horse in proper condition, will not flag in twelve hours, if you require that much of him ; and I have many times rode a horse for twelve hours, and on a moderate computation suppose he has carried me a hundred miles, without (as it is termed) drawing bit ; but this is not to be expected from every horse—none but thorough good horses, in proper condition, can undergo such extraordinary exertions.

But to return. The quantity of hay that is given, should be well shaken, to clear it from dust and seeds, and if it is very dry, as it sometimes will be, sprinkling it with water will make it more agreeable to the horse, and he will eat it with better appetite. I have known several horses, when they perceive or think they are going out with the hounds, refuse to eat their hay and oats ; this arises from an impatient, and pleasing anxiety of mind—the pleasing prospect of the chace, of which most horses are fond, but some uncommonly so ; but whether they disregard their food from this pleasing anxiety,

iety, as children will when the prospect of pleasure is arrived, or whether they refuse their food knowing; they will be better able to gallop with an empty stomach, I wont pretend to determine; but certain it is, the horses that have come within my knowledge, never performed the worse for it; and I likewise noticed, they were not off their feed when the day was over: therefore, a horse refusing his food under such circumstances, I do not deem a bad prognostic. But it is very common for a horse to be off his feed after any great exertion, and this is by no means a desirable circumstance.

After having raked with hay, you next feed, as it is termed, that is, serving the oats. I proceed in the routine that is to be daily observed, for were I to treat of things out of this regular order, young hands might be studying; what they should do, and what ought to be done first; and it is no uncommon thing to see some that have been in the stable employment for a length of time,

time, not know which thing to do first, and occasion themselves trouble and loss of time by going wrong about things. Now in serving the oats, whatever is deemed a sufficient allowance for the horse for the day, whether it may be three quarters or a peck, one fourth of the quantity should now be given; as sweet and clean food is most agreeable to the horse, as well as most beneficial, carefully sift the corn from dust, blow away the chaff, and pick out any thing you perceive is unfit or unpleasant, which will sometimes be found among them, frequently rat's dung and cat's dung; then clean the manger with a small whisp of hay or straw, and throwing in the oats, spread them with your hand, to prevent the horse from taking too greedy a mouthful at a time, whereby he would be induced to swallow them without chewing.

While the horses are eating their corn, you begin to put the stable fair, or, on those days which you give clean litter, to muck out; you take the stable-fork, and begin with great care, for much injury has been done

done by heedlessly using the fork, first to throw all the dung off the litter clear out behind, then turning up the dryest and best of the litter under the manger, and the wet and mucky you turn out behind the horse with the dung, leaving a part, consisting of dry short litter, if it is not on the days of your entire mucking out, which are generally Wednesdays and Saturdays; at which times you turn up the best of the dry short litter, as a reserve for the bottom of the new bed, to be placed where the horse is most liable to wet and spoil litter; and then sweep all the dust, muck, and every thing that is offensive away, and clear it out of the stable as expeditiously as you can; for the air in the stable is always impregnated with the effluvia from the dung, but more particularly at the times of cleaning and mucking out, which must be more injurious than beneficial to the horse.

The stable being cleared of muck and dung, next begin to clean your horses: this is a work that requires more knowledge and

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judgment

judgment than at first appears. The curry-comb is the first thing applied, and great attention should be paid to its being applicable to the horse; some horses require much of the curry-comb, others none—this depends on the state the horse is in, time of year, &c. Horses whose coats are long and full of dust, such as are just taken up from grass, or those just come out of persons' hands that either do not know, or do not take the pains to keep a horse's coat clean and fine, will require the free use of the curry-comb, and the teeth and sharpness of the comb should be proportioned to the thickness, length, and foulness of the coat; while horses that have been kept in stable, and properly groomed, have their coats fine, thin, soft, and clean, requiring no other use of the curry-comb than merely to clean the brush, or occasionally to rub off any dung the horse may have lain on; the teeth of such comb should be remarkably even and dull, not to scratch him.

These things being attended to, after stripping

stripping the cloaths off, you should then use the curry-comb, always beginning on the near side at the hind quarters, and using it in proportion to the length and foulness of the coat, that is, if the coat is fast on, long, full of dust, and very filthy, you should use it very freely to loosen the coat, or the sweat that is dried and fast on the skin and roots of the hair, appearing like a white and saltish dust; but though I say you may use it freely for this purpose, you are not to expect you are to get it all out at once; it will be a work of time; and to attempt it by using the curry-comb too much, you would set the coat on end, open the pores of the skin, and give the horse cold, which would obstruct that imperceptible perspiration which is always discharging itself through the pores of the skin in horses like unto us, and then an ichor will issue from the obstructed pores, which will dry into small scabs, and the coat will stare; therefore, when I say use the comb freely, I mean comparatively to what you do with horses whose coats are fine and clean; over diligent grooms, who do not thoroughly un-

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derstand

derstand their business, but take abundant pains to excel, if possible, are apt to run into this, and the like extremes. Another thing to be observed is, that if it is at the season the horse is changing his coat, (at which time it will come off very fast with the curry-comb,) I would not advise you to use the comb more abundantly for the purpose of pulling off the coat, but let it have its time to come off; for to hasten the old coat off would subject the horse to cold, and that might occasion his new coat to grow long, which is not desirable; Providence has wisely so ordered things, that the horse's coat, if exposed to cold, shall grow long, and if you keep him warm, his coat will be the shorter.

Proceeding, then, to curry on the hind quarter, for the purpose of unmatting the hair, and loosening the dust, you descend down the quarters, particularly attending to rub off all dried dung, and minding not to injure or scratch the horse; the legs, below the houghs, are not to be touched with the
curry-comb,

curry-comb, unless there is any dung on the point of the hough, which you may carefully endeavour to loosen with the curry-comb; but the comb does not work pleasant on that part, and you must handle it very light, and with the greater care. You next proceed to the fillets, back, loins, flank, belly, shoulders, arms, bosom, and neck, omitting no part that the curry-comb can be conveniently applied to; but tender places, or those thin of hair, need not be touched: observe, therefore, with the curry-comb, to begin at the hind quarters and finish at the head, which seldom need be touched with the curry-comb. Horses are not ticklish when their coats are full of the dust occasioned by the natural and imperceptible perspiration of the body, but as they get clean, and their coats short and fine, they are exceedingly ticklish, and you must be careful to stand in a secure place. After currying the near side, you next proceed with the off side; and here it becomes necessary to use your left hand, which, after a while, you will find most handy and convenient

venient; this done, you next proceed to whisp off the dust you have raised by the curry-comb, and to rub and whisp those places which were not proper for the curry-comb to touch. For this purpose, you make a whisp of some half-worn straw, but a hay-band is better, which prepare for the purpose by half untwisting it; loosening it thus, you double it to about twelve inches in length, loosely twisting it together that it may not scatter away too fast, till you have it as thick as you can grasp; if it is dry and harsh, sprinkle it with water; this will make it work more pleasant; and the dust you intend to remove will thereby adhere to it, and not fly so much about. This whisp with care, if properly made, will serve you several times, and, consequently, when one is worn out, you must make another.

You begin to whisp the horse at his head; taking the whisp in your right hand, you apply your left hand on his nose, to hold the head steady, and whisp first his forehead over the eye, behind, and round the root of

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his

his ear, down his cheek, and particularly under his thropple, rubbing pretty hard, particularly if there is dried sweat and dust, which will be the case after having been out in hot weather and dusty roads.

The head being thus finished, you change the whip into your left hand, and resting the right hand on the most convenient part of the horse to steady yourself while you apply the whip, you change its situation according to the part you are rubbing, and begin at the top of the neck, and proceed downward to the shoulders, the under part of the neck, the bosom particularly, between the fore legs, down the arms, knees, sinews, and fetlocks; no part is to be left unwhipped but you must apply the whip harder and most where it was not proper to apply the curry-comb; you then proceed to the withers, and apply the whip to every part of the body, but particularly under the elbow or arm, and again between the fore legs and chest, for which purpose you take the whip in the right hand, which done, you change

H 4 again

again the whisp to the left, and rub under the brisket and belly, and from thence under the flank, the sheath, under and between the thighs as far as you can reach. This part is the most difficult with ticklish horses, but must not, on any account, be omitted; for this purpose, place your right hand on the horse's hip, put your left shoulder against him, and your head in his flank; in this position you rub as far as you can reach with the left hand, and support the horse, who will lean against you, and some will nearly lean their whole weight on you, they are so exceedingly ticklish, which, when you are used to, and find yourself secure from injury, you will disregard.

You next proceed to whisp the hind quarter, not omitting to whisp under the dock, and between the quarters; for this purpose, again take the whisp in the right hand, and take hold of the dock with your left, and place yourself as distant on the side of his quarter, as will not prevent your reaching to rub between his buttocks as far as the left hand

hand rubbed under, so that none of these soft and ticklish places are left untouched; this done, you proceed down the thigh, hough, sinews, and fetlock, both inside and out, rubbing most where the curry-comb could not be applied, and particularly the joints and fetlocks; this finishes the near side, and then you proceed, in the like manner, with the off side, reversing the hand for that purpose; for in dressing or rubbing of horses a person must be as handy with one hand as the other,

When you have finished whisking the off side, carefully observing to leave no part untouched, and not sparing your labour on those parts not proper for the curry-comb to touch, (particularly if any dried sweat or dirt should through negligence have been left at his original cleaning, after having been out) proceed next to brush him over. You should commence with clearing your brush of dust, by rubbing it on the curry-comb, and begin in like manner with the brush as you did with the whisp, first at the head, then
taking

taking the brush in the left hand and curry-comb in the right, proceed down the neck, brushing more particularly those parts where the dust is most likely to lodge, or most difficult to get out, such as the scurf of the neck next the head, down the scrag next the main; these places are scurfy, and most difficult to get free from dust; therefore the brush on such places must be much applied backward and forward, always finishing the two or three last strokes the same way as the hair, to lay the coat smooth; every two or three strokes, you should clear the brush from dust, by rubbing it on the curry-comb; proceed in the same order from place to place as you did with the whip, changing the hand to accomplish those places you find most convenient as with the whip, and particularly attending to brush where the curry-comb could not be applied; therefore, under the chest, between the fore-legs, the inside of the elbow or arm, and all nooks and corners, within the fetlocks, &c. must not be omitted; the loins, and where the hair feathers or divides different ways, as
under

under the hip-bone, are difficult to get clean; much brushing and finishing strokes are necessary, to lay the coat smooth the respective way the hair grows; under the sheath, and places where no hair grows, you need not brush, the whisp and rubbing-cloth being sufficient for them. Having thus gone over first the near side, and then the off with equal care and attention, especially those parts I have particularly mentioned, for I have noticed (being much among them) that many stable-men attend most to those places that are most conspicuous to the eye, such as the full of the neck, the shoulders, and hind quarters—these places are least difficult, and always shine the most, and they do not fail to point out these to you, and say how well they look, which may satisfy some persons; but a judge will not be deceived by external appearances; he expects the parts not immediately in view to be equally attended to, and examines between the fore arms, within the elbow, where there must be no gumminess or clammy foulness, but clean, smooth, and soft

soft as satin. Under the flank, the sheath, between the hind quarters, must be free from dust, soft, and clean as not to soil a cambric handkerchief. But to proceed.

After the brushing, (which causes much of the dust to be floating about, and a part of it will settle again on the horse,) you should have a duster to wipe him over before you put his cloaths on; some have a coarse flaxen cloth for this purpose, others a hair-cloth, and some a piece of flannel, or part of an old horse-rug—either may do, but cloths which may be the easiest washed, and kept for that purpose, are best; with this you wipe him all over, beginning as with the whisp or brush, at the head, and so proceeding to every part, which, being done, you put on his cloaths, before you finish with his head, main, tail, and legs, that the horse may not chill or take cold while you are about them,

There are some pains to be taken in buckling a cloth on, for if not even and exact it appears unpleasant to the eye, and may be

be very uncomfortable to the horse; therefore, great exactness is to be observed in placing it; throwing it over too forward, take notice if it is equal on both sides and square; then go behind his hind quarters, and, with a hand on each side, draw it down to its proper situation, which lays the coat smooth with it; if you have a fillet-cloth as well as cloth or sheet, you will of course place that first, and the sheet over that, but so much clothing is not used as formerly, for it only subjects the horse the more to take cold, and I would have it understood, I am only treating on the method to be pursued in the hackney stable, and not in the racing and hunting-stable; therefore a single cloth or sheet, and in winter a breast-plate, is as much as is necessary.— Having placed it as directed, lay the pad of the roller on the middle and hollow of the back, and should it be what is termed a sheet, which is a cloth made to wrap over under the brisket, be mindful to wrap it smooth and tight, that when the roller comes to be buckled, it may not be in wrinkles,

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nor.

nor gape or hang in a bag, or open under the belly; to prevent which, as you pull the sheet tight under the belly; wrap it forward, that it may lie quite close to the belly; for if this is not attended to, it will not only be awkward to the eye, but unpleasant to the horse, admitting of cold wind instead of protecting against it, and the horse when he stales, will wet and make it filthy; wrapping it with care to prevent these inconveniences, bring your roller under, and buckle it moderately tight, that the cloth and roller may keep its place, but not so tight as to render the horse uncomfortable, and minding to pull and adjust every part, to lie close and free from wrinkles; should the cloth hang wide at the flank, or the sheet gape, as I have cautioned against, under the belly, lay hold of the bottom of the cloth or sheet, just before the roller under the belly, and pull it forward, which will make it sit close to the flank and belly.

The cloth being properly on, loosen the horse's head, take off his stall-collar, and
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turn him about in the stall, to give his head and ears a complete rubbing and brushing, which was not so practicable with the stall-collar on ; you now brush his head over in every part, particularly at the root of the ears, and under the thropple, and after with your dusting-cloth rub and wipe him well, then pull his ears through your hands, observing they are clean and soft, and moderately cool ; you then take your mane-comb, and comb out his fore-top and mane ; then with a water-brush or sponge wet the top or roots of the mane, and pass a small rug or cloth for that purpose over it, putting one end of the cloth over on the near side at the top, pull it over to the off side, pressing the mane, and hair next the root of the mane down, to make it lie smooth, which, this being your continual practice, will not fail to do.

You must then buckle on his stall-collar, and comb his tail ; lifting up his dock, wipe away any dirt or filth that may be lodged there, either with your hand a cloth, or wet sponge

sponge, as may be most convenient. His feet are next to be examined, and the dung or litter picked out, and, if necessary, (any dung which is of a glutinous quality sticking to them,) must be washed. And, lastly, the legs are to be rubbed with a clean loose whip of straw in each hand, for which purpose you should go down on both knees, pass the whip down the legs and sinews, and finish with passing your hands down in like manner, to feel that they are smooth, and no particles of the straw (or thistles, which might be among it,) adhere or stick in the hair; these rubbings are to put the blood in circulation in these parts which are remote from the heart; for with some constitutions it is difficult to prevent a degree of stagnation, which causes the legs to get round, and, if neglected, would become what is termed the grease.

The dressing thus finished, give him his water, the quantity agreeable to circumstances, that is, if the horse is inclined to have too much belly, you are to shorten his allowance

ance of water and hay; if he is immediately going out, dont let him drink too plentifully, for no horse can travel or work well, if blown out with hay and water; on a long journey a horse may be permitted to refresh his mouth with washing, and taking a few swallows frequently, but not to satisfy himself with water till his day's work is done. I am speaking here of the hackney, who will not be required to travel faster than eight or nine miles an hour; but if you intend to travel faster, his work should be the sooner done, and washing his mouth is all the water he should have till he got to his journey's end.

Having given him his water, give him another feed of corn, sifting his corn and cleaning his manger out as before observed; then shake up his litter, and again set the stable fair. The horse is now in readiness whenever he may be wanted.

Cleaning the furniture is the next consideration. Saddles and bridles must be cleaned with a sponge from all road dirt;

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the stirrups, bits, and buckles, should be cleaned with such materials as will not injure the polish; fine sand burnt in a shovel, flanders brick, rotten stone, or charcoal dust, are fit for the purpose; any of these used with a piece of leather, dry, will preserve the polish without scratching them, which should be carefully guarded against, for it would be needless to have high-polished bits and stirrups, if coarse materials were used to scratch and spoil the beauty of them. When they are used, the instant they are taken off they should be wiped from the dirt, and the oil-brush rubbed over them, to preserve them till you have an opportunity to clean them properly. Plated buckles may be rubbed with leather and whiting, but be careful not to smear and whiten the leather. I am thus particular, because without these precautions a person may give himself much unnecessary trouble.

Girths, when much dirtied by road dirt, and saddle-cloths with sweat, &c. must be washed

washed clean with soap and water; if they are white, to keep them to a good colour, it is customary to use pipe-clay; nothing looks neater than white, and, by washing as above, they look decent to the last; but if you use pipe-clay, when dry, be mindful to brush all the dust out with a clean brush for that purpose, that they may not whiten any thing that touches them, or create a dust, which otherwise they would do; when all is cleaned, buckle the girths properly round the saddle, to keep the flaps down, and put them in their proper appointed place, free from dust, &c.

The morning's business of the stable (excepting exercise) is thus completed; the remainder may be left till noon.

Before I proceed further, I shall here show the reasons for this manner of feeding the hackney, for I would not have it understood that this is the manner to feed for extraordinary cases, hunters, &c. A hackney should be always ready to perform ordinary

work, with ease to himself and comfort to his rider: riding him for an airing five or six miles, I account moderate exercise, but to go thirty or forty miles an end, without drawing bit, at the rate of from eight to ten miles an hour, (which I think any good hackney in condition ought to perform with ease,) is what may be termed ordinary work—to gallop twenty miles, or trot sixteen in one hour, I call extraordinary work, and a regular mode of training should, therefore, be adopted. But for the hackney, it is to be observed, I have recommended him to be fed in the morning sparingly of hay, being only one fourth of his daily allowance, because it takes up much room, and requires more water to digest it, and I allow half his daily allowance of oats, because they take up the least room, and are the most heartening food. Should, therefore, the horse be wanted on a sudden, he has a foundation to support him for a long journey, and of that quality as will not encumber and distress his wind, if you go no faster than a travelling pace, riding moderately

rately at first, till the horse has emptied himself a little, and after at such pace as the horse is able to maintain with perfect ease to himself; which I account to be at two thirds or three fourths of his speed, that is, if a horse at his best speed can only trot twelve miles within the hour, eight or nine miles are as much as he can do comfortably to himself, for the continuance of three or four hours, and so in proportion for faster or slower horses. I dont say but a horse may do more, but then it becomes labour to both horse and rider; there are horses that will maintain this pace for twelve hours together, witness Crocket's mare, that trotted an hundred miles in twelve hours, on Sunbury common, about ten or twelve years back, and, no doubt, there are many others would do the same.

But to return. At noon give him the like quantity of hay as in the morning, and his feed of corn; set the stable fair, that is, put his litter to rights, and take away his dung. This is all that is necessary till watering-time,

tering-time, which is about four o'clock, at which time you strip the horse, and brush him over.

I have had lads that could hardly be persuaded of the necessity of this, alledging that they had cleaned them perfectly well in the morning, that the horse had not been out of the stable, and that the clothing prevented dust from settling on them; therefore, they could not conceive the necessity of it, and many others may be of the same opinion. To satisfy them, I was obliged to explain, that the dust they brush out of the coat, is not the dust of the stable; but arises out of the skin from the imperceptible perspiration which is continually issuing through the pores. Besides, stripping the cloaths off, and brushing him over, greatly refreshes the horse, and puts the blood in a more free circulation.

Currying and whiping may be here dispensed with, unless the horse is newly taken up from grass, or the like, and that his coat is uncommonly

uncommonly thick and foul; in which case a moderate use of the curry-comb may be applied, so that you do not occasion the coat to stare; but, in general, the brushing and wiping are sufficient, finishing in like manner as was directed in the morning, with rubbing the legs, which must never be omitted, combing the mane, tail, &c. and then watering; if there is not a probability of the horse going out, let him have a greater quantity of water than in the morning, and if he is not a greedy horse for water, he will not drink more than will do him good; but, if you perceive his belly gets too large, you must allowance him.—Setting the stable fair, you have done till the final doing up for the night.

At about eight o'clock, go to the stable and finish for the night. You must now give him his remaining allowance of hay, being double what you gave in the morning, and his remaining feed of corn; you give hay more abundantly at night, because it will be in so forward a state of digestion in the

1 4 morning,

morning, as not to occupy so much room in the stomach, which, when working, would obstruct the lungs and distress the wind; the explaining, therefore, the meaning or intention of your feeding, will be a guide how you should vary it upon particular occasions, so as to have the horse in good heart and spirits; but empty when wanted for expeditious purposes.

The last thing is, making up the beds, and setting all fair. In making up the beds you contrive to lay all the worst of the litter in the middle or bottom, where the horse is most likely to wet and spoil it, and pulling down the litter you put up in the morning, reserve the cleanest and dryest part to top the bed with, making the bed up high on each side, and fullest towards the hind quarters, that it may be soft and pleasant to the horse which ever side he lies on, as they will some times lie on one, and then the other; throwing out all dung, and sweeping clean out, see that all the stall-collars are secure, loose cloaths taken off, and
every

every thing fair, which finishes the routine of the stable.

I shall next speak of exercise, dirty horses, and the like.

Exercise is so essentially necessary and beneficial to the horse, that all the feeding and grooming will avail but little, if work or exercise is omitted. It is admitted that great numbers of horses are killed and spoiled with over-work, and, it is a doubt with me, if as many are not spoiled in London for want of work; there are several persons in London who keep horses, but are so occupied with business that they cannot ride them out oftener than once in the week, and many that I know dont ride them once in a month—their horses stand at livery, and they order them to be exercised, but what exercise can be given there, and by whom are they to be exercised?—Men employed in livery-stables have seldom less than eight, and I have known some to have sixteen livery-horses to look after; these men, if they

they rub the dung off, and occasionally give them a brush over, omit exercise, not finding time for it. Gentlemen do not like to see or know that boys are permitted to ride their horses, and without they keep grooms their horses will go short of exercise. Consider, then, the state of those horses that are confined in a stable from week's end to week's end, many of the stables very confined and filthy ; if they are sometimes moved about, which they call *exercise*, it is on a ride perhaps fifty or sixty yards long, made up of litter and dung, with a roaking dunghill at some part of it, so that the horse literally breathes only air strongly impregnated with the evaporation of dung : I think it surprising they are so well as they are. The disorders it brings on them are a short cough, called (not improperly) a stable-cough ; weakness in the joints, so that they frequently make a drop, as it is termed ; various humours, swelled legs, grease, and farcy ; at their best, when they look plump and well to the eye, they are faint and foggy, and unable to perform more than would be common

common exercise for horses in condition; it is well they are not over-fed, but just sufficient to keep them in flesh; for were they to have the feed a horse should have to be in condition, they would fly to pieces the sooner for want of exercise.

Since, therefore, exercise and air are so beneficial, let us consider in what manner exercise should be given: this is to be regulated according to circumstances. Where horses work two or three days in the week, the resting days require no more than airing exercise, for every horse should have at least two days in the week, such work or exercise as gives him a good sweating; this throws out through the pores of the skin, what might otherwise lodge and breed humours; it likewise raises the scurf, adhering to the skin, and makes the coat fine; days, therefore, that the horse is not wanted for work, he must be exercised for the air, which is bracing and strengthening to the limbs, refreshes the body, and creates appetite:

petite: the early part of the day is preferable for this.

As soon as the stable has been cleaned out in the morning, which is while the horse is eating his first feed, brush him over, and put on his exercising saddle and bridle; in cold weather, if you only intend walking him, you may keep the cloth or sheet on under the saddle; in warm weather I do not recommend it, for, though a horse's coat may be something the finer by being kept warm, yet he is certainly the more liable to take cold when he is necessarily deprived of it. The most open and airy places should be taken for exercise, and this is the most favorable opportunity to improve a horse's walk; for when he has only walking exercise, you have to walk him for two hours, which will be sufficient, and by aiming to extend his walk, you may greatly improve it—thus you exercise the horse, and improve him at the same time. —At your return, thoroughly clean him, give him his feed, &c. If you had convenience

venience or opportunity while you were out, you might give him his water. If a horse is hardy, and inclined to flesh, I would rather recommend the like exercise in the afternoon, where persons have time and convenience, than to shorten his feed for that purpose ; it would be much better for the horse, but every one cannot allow the time to be so taken up, for it would be nearly equal to training, and may not be thought necessary ; it is more than the generality of horses requires, and many inferior-bred horses, who look well to the eye, cannot for a continuance stand the ordinary exercise that a horse has in training ; such is the amazing difference of horses.

Should his work be so moderate as not to occasion a sweat, I think it beneficial, about twice a week, to give exercise strong enough to sweat him ; this may be done in the pace he is mostly rode in, that he may be practised and improved in it ; if he is admired for his trot, it would be wrong to gallop him, which might unsettle him in his

his esteemed pace; therefore, trot him out for the space of two miles to bring him to a comfortable sweat, and walk him back; thus you extend his limbs, supple his joints, and strengthen the ligaments and sinews; for we know not our strength, unless we are put to it--inactivity debilitates, and over-exertion may sprain and weaken; but moderate exertion is good both for man and beast.

A lady's horse, if admired for the short united gallop, may be much improved in sweating exercise, if the exercising groom has a hand equal to the task, for no pace sweats so soon as uniting the gallop; the horse that is properly broke for a lady, is united or worked up to a certain pitch by a masterly hand, for ladies (few of them, however,) are capable of keeping them up to it, so that after a time the horse becomes less and less united, unless the groom in his exercise, can gallop the horse in extreme union, whereby the horse will ever be continued fit and pleasant for a lady's riding. Thus, in exercise,

exercise, the esteemed pace, either walk, trot, short or extended gallop, may be practised and probably improved—for practice is the only mode of improvement.

Sweating and dirtying of horses occasions considerable labour to clean, and indolent grooms, and those who have several horses to look after, avoid this part of their business as much as possible; some would persuade you there is no necessity for it; but reason and experience teach us otherwise.

When horses come in from work or exercise, if in sweat, or wet and dirty with sloppy roads and rain, they should not be left till they are made completely dry, clean, and comfortable; some horses in good condition will rub dry and clean in a short time, but others, with long or curly coats, and some from constitution or ill condition, are a long while getting dry. I have known an industrious groom to work at a horse for four hours, and would not leave him till
6 dry,

dry, while others will cover them with a cloth, and leave them to dry before they will clean them; much depends on the habit the horse has been used to, constitution, condition, &c. whether the horse will take injury from being left in his wet and dirt; but those horses that have been properly groomed, having all care taken of them to keep their coats fine, and on all occasions made dry and comfortable, would be liable to take cold, which might be the forerunner of other diseases, if neglected at these times.

I must caution you not to suffer a practice which nothing but indolence and ignorance could ever have introduced, and what has cost many a horse his life; this is when a horse comes in, (we'll admit thoroughly) wet and dirty as can be, to ride them in a pond, or wash the dirt off with a water-brush; this they will do, if permitted, all under the belly, and half up the body, alleging, that the horse cannot be wetter than he is, and that it will wash the dirt off,

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and he will dry the sooner; to such feasible arguments I have been obliged to oppose mine: that the horse was wet as possible I admitted, but that wet came on little by little as the horse splashed himself, and the heat of his body, with exercise, had tempered that wet to the heat of the body, and the horse was not so liable to injury from that; but to apply a body of cold water, which they must do to wash the dirt off, while the blood was in heat or fermentation, would strike a cold to the heart, close the pores, and obstruct nature in discharging herself by perspiration. I have been served thus at inns on the road, before I was aware of what they intended, and to prevent the consequences, I immediately made them be rode again, to keep the blood in circulation, and the parts thus chilled had recovered their heat, so that the pores might keep open to perform their offices.

Since the method of cleaning a horse in this wet condition of sweat and dirt, did

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not occur in the daily routine of the stable, I shall here introduce it.

The first thing after stripping the saddle, &c. off, when the horse is so wet with sweat or dirt as to require it, is the scraper, usually made of a flat piece of wood, with a thin edge for the purpose, or a piece of iron hoop is a good substitute; with these you carefully scrape off as much of the sweat or dirt as you possibly can, beginning at the top of the neck, and proceeding to the shoulders, chest, back, ribs, flank, hind quarters, belly, inside the arm and thighs, down the legs, &c.; when you have scraped off all you conveniently can, take him into a stall; then take off his bridle, and with clean wisps of straw give his head a good rubbing in every part; this should always be the first part rubbed after a horse has been out; it is exceedingly refreshing, and the horse as much as tells you so, for if you neglect it, he will rub himself against you, or any place he can get at. After rubbing his

his head well, put on the halter, and tye him to the rack, giving him a bit of good hay to amuse him, and then wisp him with clean straw, beginning and going from place to place as you would at other times, only let your wisps be loose clean straw, repeatedly changed as they get wet and dirty; the first wisping over you should rub both ways, to get as much of the mud out of the coat as you can, finishing with laying the coat smooth and close, that the heat of the body may assist in drying it the sooner; be mindful not to omit under the chest, breast, belly, under the flank, and between the hind quarters; these places not being so full in sight, are often neglected by ostlers and stable-men on the road; the legs must also be wiped down with wisps to take off the top of the dirt: having done one side, proceed in like manner with the other, and the first will be drying the while; after having in like manner wisped the other side, which is merely to take off the principal dirt, begin again, taking plenty of clean dry straw, and wipe him, for the purpose of

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getting

getting him dry; if he is in good condition, and his coat short, you will soon get him dry; the wiping the coat down smooth will greatly contribute towards it, unless the horse is faint and weak, and breaks into fresh sweats by your rubbing; in this case apply the clean wisps with a lighter hand, that you may occasion the least perspiration, but not desist, though you will be the longer time about it.

Many readers will say, "my horses are not thus attended to, and yet I don't perceive any harm arising from it." This I will admit, that when horses have not been accustomed to thorough grooming, they may not be so liable to take injury on these occasions; but those who are properly groomed, not only are finer and better in their coats, but more lightsome, active, and strong for it, and able to go through more labour than they could without it; for this purpose grooming is necessary, and, being in the habits of it, a horse might sustain injury if neglected at this crisis, when it is most
3 wanted ;

wanted; for which reason a good groom never leaves his horse till he is dry, and if he is a long time getting him dry, the horse will sustain no injury while he is rubbed, as it keeps the blood in circulation, and prevents getting cold.

Having got him dry with wisps or wiping (for some grooms are allowed coarse cloths like jack-towelling, for this purpose) proceed to brush him over as at other times, and finish the head, main, and tail, rubbing the legs clean and dry, picking the feet out, and sponging the hoofs clean if necessary, thus making him as comfortable and dry as when he went out in the morning.

I think I have noticed the ordinary occurrences in the hackney stable, except trimming, which I consider the principal part of the groom's business, and what every one who has the care of horses should qualify himself to perform, as it is allowed to embellish and set a horse off to much advantage. Many horses are exceedingly

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troublesome

troublesome to trim, and require extraordinary means to be taken to accomplish it, such as are shocking to relate ; and I have known half-a-guinea given to trim such troublesome horses. I am of opinion they were made so from improper methods taken at first, by those who had not patience to coax, nor ability to accomplish by compulsion, and who, therefore, made the horses desperate without fully accomplishing their purpose. Most horses have such a dislike to be trimmed, particularly about the head, that few will stand without the twitch, and if they stand tolerably quiet with that, it is as much as can be expected ; but if with a little coaxing it can be done without, it will be the better.

There is great care, skill, and judgment required in trimming : care, that you do no injury by the unsteadiness of the horse with your scissars—skill, that you may not disfigure him by scoring, notching, and the like—and judgment to trim in that style as will be most proper and advantageous. Begin,

gin, then, with the head, first with the fore-top; you are to cut only that part on the forehead which is in the way of the front of the bridle and stall-collar, cutting it away close and smooth; next clip away that part on the poll where the head-stall of the bridle or stall-collar comes, being mindful to clip as little towards the neck as you can avoid, for if you clip beyond where the head-stall of the bridle comes, you will disfigure the neck; you next come to as difficult a part as any, which is trimming out the ear, and few horses will stand quiet without being pinched with the twitch.

Good workmen will make shift with any sort of tools, and bad ones blame the tools for their own awkwardness, nevertheless, handy tools are to be preferred; the scissars for trimming ears will be most handy if narrow in the blades, the points not too picked, but should cut well at the point; begin with clipping the inner part of the ear, not cutting near the edges till you have got the long hair on the inside cleared out,

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and

and then gradually approach to the edges, shoving the outside skin of the ear back, that you may not clip so near as to leave the edge of the ear bare, which you would do if you did not take that precaution, and would shamefully disfigure the ear. The outside skin of the ear is very loose, and as you hold it with the left hand while you clip with the right, you are apt to draw it so forward that it deceives you; for you suppose you are not clipping near the edge, but when the hold is let go, you will perceive the edge bare, and this must be continued, or the ear will appear in scallops or notches, so that much care must be taken to guard against this error. When you are near the edges, you cannot be certain where to cut while you hold the ear, you must frequently let go to notice if you have cut far enough, carefully avoiding to take too much at a time; having clipped to the edges of the ear, and no farther, the outside hair will stand projecting beyond the edges of the ear, quite even and regular if you have been careful to clip it so.

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At the bur and root of the ear a deal of long flossy hair grows, which must partly be clipped away, that on the inside entirely with the scissars, and that on the outside you must be careful not to leave in scores and notches, leaving the singeing to accomplish what the scissars cannot so well effect. You finish with the scissars, by clipping round the edge of the ear the hair that projects, cutting it all round, so that you preserve the exact beauty and shape of the ear, being mindful not to notch or cut the back hair, so as to shew the roots of the under hair, which will be a disfigurement; much at the root of the ear must be left for singeing, the scissars will only score it.

You next clip all superfluous hair about his face and beard, which grows like a cat's whiskers, some under his eyes, about his nose, lips, and beard, cutting them close as possible.

Rough horses newly come from grass, and coarse-bred horses have a quantity of superfluous

superfluous hair growing very thick under the thropple and about the throat; this must be removed, partly by the scissars and partly by singeing; the longest and thickest part should be removed by the scissars; in the parts least in sight, be mindful to score as little as possible, for it is a difficult task to clip without scoring, and the hair is of that quality and so thick, that you might broil the horse before you could singe the scores out—therefore the greatest care must be taken to score as little as possible.

The fore legs are the next which present themselves, and the legs are sure to be particularly noticed, and consequently must have all pains taken with them; thoroughbred horses kept in stable, and properly groomed, seldom require trimming about the legs; all superfluous hair rubs off with their dressings; but when newly taken up from grass a little long hair will appear on the back sinews and on the fetlock joints, which may be taken off with a sharp knife; putting the blade under the hair, with the

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edge

edge upwards, you press the hair between your thumb and the blade of the knife, and drawing your hand upwards, cut the hair that was so compressed, to any length you please, which will leave no scores, and, if properly done, it will scarcely be perceived that they have been touched.

The coarser the breed of the horse, the more superfluous hairs will be found on the legs and within the pastern, and where it is abundant it must be removed with the scissors; beginning next the heel, clip the hair out clean within the pastern, and under the fetlock joint, the adjoining part must be nicely tapered, that the sudden break from short to long may not appear, which it otherwise would in scores; for this purpose put a comb under to raise the hair, and cut in such manner as to leave the outer hair the longest, whereby the mark of the scissors may not be seen. The soft spongy piece of flesh at the back extremity of the pastern joints, may be pared down, if necessary, with a sharp knife, and the hair next above
left

left in such manner as to conceal it, being nicely tapered off to resemble or appear like blood legs, or the legs of a blood horse; the hair up the back sinews must be raised with the comb, and cut in equal or even lengths, tapering the hair next the bone towards the sinew in such manner that no breaks or scores may appear, the hair next the back sinew being left the shortest.

Horses, like men, are not all equally straight: some horses are a little bent at the knees; where this happens, the hair within that joint must not be clipped too close, as it would make that defect appear more conspicuous, and trimming is to make the horse appear to advantage—therefore, care must be taken to conceal all the defects you can: but where the legs are straight, all the flossy hair within that joint may be removed carefully, minding to leave no scores with the scissars. Round the crown of the hoofs the hair should be clipped, making it regular and even. The four legs being thus trimmed, there only remains the tail for the
farther

farther operation of the scissars, as no scissars are ever to touch the mane, unless the mane is hogged.

Fashion and fancy are ever wavering, and the horse's tail and ears have been always subject to changes, agreeable to the taste of the times: at one time, a switch tail—at another, a full bushytail—then a blood tail, and several others—and now a thin tail. I suppose that each of these fashions will again prevail at one time or other, therefore I shall notice each of them.

The switch tail required no cutting; the long hair left on the tail after the end of the dock was taken off, was pulled underneath, and at the sides, with an iron instrument made for the purpose (but now seldom to be seen but in the carter's stables,) till they tapered it to a point, hanging about eight inches below the dock. There was much reason in this tail, for, since nature had accommodated the horse with a tail to cast the flies off, and fan himself with, man only took

took off the extremity which he found annoyed him when the horse switched it about in hot or dirty weather, and left the horse all that could be allowed, as not to incommode himself.

The bushy tail preserved all the hair it could, and holding the tail to that elevation in which the horse usually carried it, the scissars cut in a perpendicular direction within about half an inch of the end of the dock. Scissars were made purposely for this business; the first sort were made nine inches long in the blades, to reach to the top without the hand putting the hair out of place; but afterwards it was found more convenient to have the haft of the scissars bent like the gardeners' shears, which they square the hedges with. There is much art and ingenuity in cutting these tails truly square, leaving both sides of equal length, and leaving no projections or hollows at the end. The carriage-horses are mostly cut so at this time.

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The brush tail was suitable to those horses that, from being well nicked, carried their tails high, and bent upwards; these tails were cut rounding in such manner, that when their tails were up, they resembled the hair of a brush, and much ingenuity is required to cut them true and even.

The blood tail has been much in vogue for many years, and I think is as becoming as any. This requires the least art or ingenuity in cutting; you have only to comb the hair out, and, holding it together with your left hand, you cut the ends off square, at a proper length, generally about three inches below the end of the dock, then combing the tail out, hold it up, and correct any irregularities you perceive. The hair of the blood horse's tail is generally thin, and of an easy flowing nature, so that the tail cut in this manner is very becoming.

The thin tail is a mean representation of the blood tail, for half, and inferior-bred horses have fuller and more bushy tails than
blood

blood horses; hence, to bring them to some resemblance of the blood tail, they pluck the under hair to thin it, and by that means make it appear like a thin ragged tail; the ends are squared as the blood tail.

Thin-tailed horses have been remarked in general to be good ones; whether the fashion was brought up to convey an idea of goodness, or to resemble blood, I cannot determine; but the difference is easily discovered, and I think they should be denominated Ragged-tails.

There only remains now to pull the mane and singe. First comb the mane thoroughly, laying it very smooth and even; then begin at the top, and, taking hold of a few of the longest hairs at the points with the right hand, separate them from the other hair by shoving the comb up; if you have hold of no more than, if bound together, would be about the thickness of a straw, twist them round the back of the comb, and pluck them out; then combing the mane down
again,

again, take some more and pluck in like manner, till you have reduced that part to the thinness and length you wish; then proceed in like manner down the mane, till you have reduced it all alike, repeatedly combing it out, and any irregularities you perceive correct, but not with the scissars; hairs left longer than the rest must be plucked, but not cut.

The foretop is a great ornament, and should be left long, so that it will tuck under the front of the bridle, and reach three or four inches below; the extreme ragged points may be taken off with the scissars, so that it is left thin at the points, but not squared to be thick and bushy.

Singeing now finishes the trimming business. Rough horses newly taken from grass, usually want much singeing all over, there being long downy hair projecting beyond the rest of the coat, which can only be taken off at the present by singeing, for it would

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be some time before the daily dressings would bring it off.

Begin with the head. For this purpose you have a candle with a large wick—a shoemaker's candle, that is made with two wicks, is best; the long downy hair which projects beyond the rest of the coat, may be singed to a level with the coat; these you will find in some parts more abundant than others—the outside of the ears will have some, much at the root or bur of the ear; the candle must not continue long in a place, to burn the horse; therefore, where there is much to singe off, you must rub the singed place, let it cool, and apply the candle again, but not to continue it so long as to blister the skin; the places that require the most singeing are at the root of the ear, the thropple, about the throat, and adjoining part of the neck; on the other parts the long downy hairs will singe down at the first touch; but the places I have named, where the hair is thick and long, you must wipe the singed
part

part off, and repeat it several times, minding not to burn the horse, which the thickness of the coat will prevent, unless you keep the candle in one place an unreasonable time, which you must be mindful of. Putting your hand over the eye, you singe all the light straggling hairs you perceive about his eyes, brows, forehead, cheeks, beard, and the like; where there is the least hair, you must be most careful not to burn, but the thropple and throat generally want many repetitions, the hair being so abundant and thick, and frequent wiping to see that you do not singe it irregularly.

The head and throat being singed with the candle, the residue of the body is singed with straw. For this purpose you draw out some clean long straw, taking as much in your hand at a time as about the thickness of three fingers, and lighting one end, pass the flare or blaze from one place to another, beginning at his neck; be careful not to singe his mane; proceeding from thence to his chest, shoulders, breast, and every part

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where

where you perceive long downy hair projecting beyond the generality of the coat, minding not to make your blaze too large, nor continue it too long in a place, particularly where there is but little hair, as under the flank, and within the thighs, &c.— Then giving the horse a good wiping and brushing over, completely finishes his trimming.

I have to observe, that horses having been kept for a time in the stable, and properly groomed, have not these long downy coats, and consequently will not require singeing all over the body; the beard, the ears, mane, and tail, are generally all that a blood horse requires to be trimmed when he is kept in stable, but coarser horses will require the heels and other parts to be trimmed, though the coat may be kept so fine as not to require singeing.

I have observed, some horses are troublesome to trim. The means usually taken in addition to the twitch on his nose,
or

or sometimes on the ear, are to gag them with the halter put through the mouth and over the ear, so that the more the horse struggles, he gags his mouth and pinches his ear; to keep the leg still while you are trimming it, a person should hold up the one while you trim the other; if a hind leg, a side line may be put on to draw up the leg you are not trimming; these are the usual expedients, but should only be put in practice when the horse cannot be coaxed to stand without them.

The most resolute and troublesome horse to trim that I ever saw, was secured in a stall with two strong halters, the one put on in the usual way, the other as a gag through his mouth; with these he was turned about in the stall, and one halter was tied to each stall-post so tight, that his head was confined in the middle, in such a manner that he had little or no liberty to move it in any direction; the consequence was, the horse made one resolute effort to extricate himself, but finding himself secured, and the gag

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punishing

punishing him the more he struggled, he was cowed, and submitted to be thus held while he was trimmed. Plenty of litter in the stall is adviseable, as it may prevent accidents in the horse's struggling.

HUNTING STABLES.

AFTER what has been said in the preceding chapter, there remains to be noticed the method to get your hunters into condition, and the care and management of them through the season. Hunters are usually turned into good grass after the season is over, and taken up generally in August, to be got in condition against the approaching season. Grass, if ever so good in quality, is not a substantial food; it is cooling and opening, and, though it makes horses fleshy, it nevertheless is not that description of flesh as the horse could work on; if you were to attempt to gallop him to that excess as you are necessitated when hunting, you would find the horse faint and weak; his flesh would melt or waste so fast with a white lathering

lathering sweat, as would most likely throw him into a surfeit, and kill him; therefore, the first thing to be done to alter this state of the blood, in the best and most expeditious manner, is to bleed and physic.

No person has a greater aversion to bleeding and physicing than myself; I have been always in the habits of treating my own horses much after the same manner that I would myself, which was, never to take medicine unless I perceived an absolute necessity for it; for I have made a remark that all medical men that I have been intimate with, (and I have known several) have prescribed medicine to their patients for the most trifling complaints, but took none themselves unless they were extremely bad, and thought there was some danger. Judging I must be right in following their example, I therefore never take medicine myself, nor administer it to my horse, unless I am fully persuaded there is a real necessity for it, and then generally of my own prescribing, for I never apply

to a doctor for ordinary or common occurrences.

In the case of a horse being taken up from grass, they are generally very full of blood, and inclined to itch and rub themselves much; and not only in this, but at all times when the horse rubs himself much, bleeding may be necessary. The first thing, therefore, to be done, is to get him shod, for horses usually have their shoes taken off when turned to grass, and if not, they generally loosen them before they are taken up; then take about two quarts of blood away, and let him stand quiet without any food of any kind for three or four hours. While he is full of grass he will not drink much water, but after living a few days on dry food he will drink plentifully if you let him; there is no necessity for your stinting him in water, till he has been through his physic.

His coat will be exceedingly foul and full
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of dirt and nits, therefore he will require some good dressings; the opening his coat, and taking the dirt out, will require him to be clothed; buckle a cloth on with a good broad roller, pretty tight, to help to get his belly up; after he has been in stable three or four days, and emptied the grass out, you may give him his first dose of physic, preparatory to which, the night before give him a cold mash, consisting only of bran moistened with water—this, and hay, is the only food necessary till his physic is set, as they term it, that is, done working; were you to give more substantial food, it might lessen the effect or operation of the physic, or be thrown out whole and undigested; consequently, it is best not to give any. Give your physic the first thing in the morning, and if your physic is good, it may be expected to operate from twenty-four to thirty hours after giving.

I do not mean to give any prescriptions for physic, lest I should be accused of meddling

dling in a profession I have not taken up my degrees for at the veterinary college; scarcely a druggist but what prepares horse-medicines, and every veterinary surgeon has them in dozens, ready made up for immediate use; but should any gentleman have a favourite prescription, which he prefers for his own use, I will not dispute the goodness of the prescription, but I must caution him to be certain that the quality of the drugs of which it is compounded, are genuine and good; I dont know a more serious evil than the compounding of medicines with bad drugs, and I have experienced the evil in the country, when I have sent a prescription to be made, for, whether from ignorance of the quality of drugs, they might have been imposed upon themselves, or whether from avarice, thinking a cheap or spurious article might do for a horse, I wont pretend to say; but physic prepared with bad materials not only deceives and disappoints you, but may do infinite mischief, even the loss of a horse perhaps worth a hundred guineas, or more; therefore

therefore I recommend you to procure your physic of persons who are respectable, and prepare great quantities; it is likely from their using large quantities, that it is not prepared with stale drugs, and also from experience they are judges of the quality; but giving a horse-prescription to an apothecary, or a country druggist, it is likely to be made up of drugs that have been years in his shop, and perhaps originally not of the best quality.

By the continued use of one person's physic, you will become acquainted with its strength and quality, and may, if you think necessary for either small, young, or weakly horses, diminish the dose, suitable to the constitution you give it to.

Every groom should be expert and handy to administer and apply the common and ordinary recipes to a horse, and perform the common operation of bleeding; the frequent sight, and assisting at these operations, convey the best idea of them; nevertheless,

theless, there is an art in giving a horse a ball, which a looker-on cannot easily discover, and it being a material thing to give it well, I shall point out such particulars as may assist the young practitioner.

The generality of things may be done with deliberation, but the giving a ball must be done expert and quick, if not, it becomes disagreeable to the horse and difficult to you; a balling-iron is used by those who are not expert at it, and it may be best for those not in the habit of giving balls, but those accustomed to give balls will do it as well and sooner without.

First, you should be certain you are tall enough to reach, should the horse raise his head, before you make the attempt, and if not, stand on something to raise you. Let the person who holds the horse, have the ball ready to give you, if you are necessitated to use both hands to get hold of the tongue, and place it as I shall direct. Stand before the horse, and take the farthest

theſt hold you can of the tongue with your left hand, drawing as much out of his mouth as it will admit, and in ſuch manner that your thumb is in the mouth, placed on the near ſide of the tongue, and preſſing it between his grinders, which effectually prevents him from ſhutting his mouth; folding your right hand in as ſmall a compaſs as you can, hold the ball at the extreme end with the three firſt fingers, and put it over the root of the tongue into the gullet, thruſting it as far as you can reach with your fingers; then let go the tongue, and bridle the noſe in, to prevent his attempting to cough it up, till you ſee it paſs down the gullet; you muſt attentively watch this, for you cannot be certain of his ſwallowing it, unleſs you ſee it paſs down; if he hesitates to ſwallow, hit him on the gullet with your hand, and that will occaſion him to make a gulp; for ſome horſes will, if you are not mindful, hold it in the gullet till you looſen the head, and then cough it up; or if you have not properly put it into the gullet, but lodged it at the extremity of the grinders,

grinders, you will perceive him chewing it, and put it out of his mouth. I have seen awkward persons spoil several balls before they could put one fairly down; if you are awkward, the horse will make the more resistance, but if you are expert you pop it down without inconvenience and disturbance to the horse.

When you have given the physic, you need not take him out of the stall till it should begin to operate; hay, or bran moistened may be given him, if he will eat, but the physic mostly occasions a sickness, and they refuse to eat. Water may be given as much as he will drink; warm water will occasion the physic to operate the sooner if he will drink it; but cold water, or such as has stood in the stable some hours, which takes the raw chill off, will not hurt him, if the physic is prepared without calomel, or other preparations from mercury; which should only be given in certain or obstinate disorders, worms, &c. on which occasions no cold water should

be given, and extraordinary care taken not to expose the horse to take cold, but with plain physic there is not that danger; nevertheless, you are not to strip his cloth off, nor dress him till his physic has done working, or his dung set, which in general will be about the third or fourth day.

At the period his physic is, or should be operating, you may take him out and move him about, in a walk or gentle trot, but not so much as to heat him, to promote the working or operation of the physic, and let him drink as much as he pleases; but you are not to strip any clothes off, but rather throw an additional cloth over him, for warmth promotes the operation of the physic, and cold will check it; therefore, the walking, or moving about you give, should be in a dry and warm place; when the physic has operated once or twice, put him in; you may wipe his legs clean, or any dung off his houghs or hind quarters, but not give him any rubbings, for that would loosen the coat, or open the pores, which
might

might subject the horse at this period to take cold, and stop the working of the physic.

When the physic has so operated, as to keep the body open for about twenty-four hours, giving him copious and loose stools, you may forbear using means of promoting further operation, and let him stand till his dung is set; you may then give him his corn, strip and dress him well, and the next day take him out to exercise.

About the sixth or seventh day from the time he took his first dose, you may administer the second dose, ordering the horse in the same manner as I have directed; and again letting the same time elapse between, you may give the third dose, which in general is sufficient to thoroughly cleanse the horse from that faint or foul condition which green food naturally occasions; and then you will, by proper diet and exercise, get him into wind and condition fit for hunting, but before I proceed with that part, I shall make some farther remarks on physic.

I have

I have noticed the manner of ordering a horse in physic, under the circumstances of the physic properly operating and going on right; but from various causes it may so happen that physic does not take a proper, or the expected effect. If physic does not operate in the space of thirty-six hours, some reasons should be assigned for it; it may proceed from the quality of the physic not being good, or it might so happen that the ball was not completely administered, for when a ball is awkwardly given, and the horse gets part of it in his teeth, he may only swallow a part, which you perceiving to pass, may be therewith satisfied, and the residue may be dropped in his litter, and never after discovered; or it may proceed from the habit or constitution of the horse not being easily moved, so that he may require a stronger dose; and some horses will keep physic longer within them before it operates than others. Whatever the reason may be, I should not be in haste to administer another dose till I had used

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the ordinary expedients, and waited to observe the effect.

When physic does not operate in the space of thirty-six hours, keep the horse warm, for that will assist the operation, and warm a quart of mild ale, and give it to him with a drenching-horn; or it can be as well given out of a bottle, if you have not a horn at hand, minding not to give it too hastily; and a quarter of an hour after let him be gently moved about in a trot, but not to heat him; at night give him a warm mash, with a handful of ground malt in it, and if it does not operate the next morning, I should then be inclined to doubt whether he had really taken the physic, unless the horse had been sick, which you will perceive by his being dull and heavy, and refusing his hay: on the other hand, a soft stool only, may be in consequence of the warm ale or mash you might give him; but if he throws out a copious thin stool, having been sick with it, you may conclude he had his physic all or

in part; yet, if his body is not kept open four-and-twenty hours, having several copious stools, I consider his physic not to be sufficiently strong, and should increase my next dose accordingly, for in general the first dose of physic operates the most, and I usually take a small piece off the first dose to add to the last, if I think necessary, and particularly if I know not the constitution of the horse I am administering to, it being safer to under-do it, than over-do it; and by the second dose I can very well judge what his constitution will bear, and proportion my dose accordingly.

On the other hand, it sometimes happens that physic is too powerful, owing to various causes—sometimes the constitution or habit of the horse's body, is weaker than at other times; and sometimes the physic may be composed of stale drugs, such as have lost their balsamic quality, but retain the purging quality, which is exceedingly injurious; in these cases you will observe the horse purge from the anus, throwing only part of his stool from him, and an involun-

tary discharge issuing from the anus running down his hind quarters underneath, and all down his houghs and legs, in a continual wet and slimy condition; you must then keep the horse still, and be mindful not to let him take cold, wiping him as dry and clean as you can, for the stool is of a very sharp acrimonious quality; if you find the purging does not abate in its due course of time; proper remedies should be taken to check it; rice gruel may be given him for drink, and if he is disposed to eat the rice, you may let him; you must desist from giving him bran mashes, but give him dry and heartening food, if he will feed; should the purging still continue, you may mull a bottle of red port, with plenty of cinnamon or cassia, and when sufficiently cool, give it him as a draught with the drenching-horn—this will most likely check the purging, if not, you may repeat it. An ounce of gum-arabic should be dissolved and given in his water, which will heal and strengthen the coats of the stomach, if impaired by the excessive operation of the purging medicine.

When the purging has been thus excessive, I should let a clear week elapse from the time the dung was set, before I gave another dose, to let the coats of the stomach recover from the injury they may have sustained ; giving the dissolved gum-arabic in his water for that purpose. You will consequently be mindful that your next dose shall be less in quantity, or of a less deleterious quality.

Horses having gone through their physic, you proceed by proper exercise and diet, to get them into wind and condition for hunting. Your physicing has taken between three and four weeks to get the horses cleansed from their soft foggy food, and now about the same space is allowable to get the flesh firm, the coat clean, the limbs suppled and strengthened by exercise, and the wind improved by suitable management of diet and exercise for that purpose.

As you have been at so much pains to cleanse the body from soft and foggy food,

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you

you must now be careful that nothing but clean wholesome food shall be taken by him. For this purpose you should be provided with a rack-rein and muzzle, which must be alternately used—when the one is taken off, the other is to be put on; for instance, you put on the muzzle when you wish or expect the horse to lie down, consequently you put it on at leaving the stable at night; this is to prevent him from eating his litter, which some horses will do even when it is very foul, and when fresh litter is given, many horses will prefer it to their hay; and though clean straw is not injurious to horses that are not required to gallop much, yet hunters and racers are not permitted to eat it because it oppresses the wind. The rack-rein is an iron chain fixed at the head of the stall, which passes through a ring sewed in the front of the nose-band of the stall-collar; it is fastened in the same manner as a dog's chain to the ring in the collar, and, when dressing the horse, you can, after passing it through the collar, fasten him as short as you think necessary; but

but at other times the chain must be long enough to permit the horse to feed out of his rack, or out of his manger, though not to let his head reach down to his litter.

The first thing to be done in the morning at coming to stable, is to take off the muzzle, and put on the rack-rein; then throw into the manger about a quart, or a little better, of oats, according to the stomach or constitution of the horse, for some are puny feeders, and must be treated in such manner as will best invite or occasion them to eat, while others, on the other hand, will eat all you set before them, and must be stinted to a proper allowance. The oats for these occasions, should be the best that can be procured—dry old oats, short and plump, clean from all manner of seeds, which are frequently to be found, particularly among foreign oats, perfectly sweet and free from dust, and white as a hound's tooth; sift them well, and blow the husks, chaff, or any light oats away, and be sure to keep the manger very clean; when the horse has eat his oats,

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during

during which you will just clear his dung from behind him, but not to disturb the wet litter, as to occasion the vapour or stench to arise, you may strip off his clothes, rub the dung, if any, off his hind quarters, hocks, &c. and giving him a light brush over, put on his exercising-cloth and saddle; then turning him about, brush his head and ears, put on his bridle, and take him out for exercise. The stripping and brushing I look upon to be as refreshing to the horse as your washing when you get out of bed in a morning. While the horses are out at exercise, a person should be left at home to clear away all the wet dung immediately, setting door and windows open, to get the stable sweet against their return, and all the stalls set fair, and the stable cleanly swept.

For exercise, choice should be made of the driest and most open piece of turf, sod, or heath that is in the neighbourhood, and likewise where there is some gradual ascents, if of half a mile or a mile in length the better, to give the horse some gentle

gentle breathings, to bring him in wind. You should walk them the first half hour, letting them empty themselves, yawn, stretch their necks, and enjoy the sweet refreshing morning air, which is uncommonly bracing and strengthening both to man and beast; so manage your walks as to bring your horse about this time to a convenient place to give him a gentle gallop; begin slow, and gradually increase your pace till you finish at a half or three-quarters speed; proportion the length of your gallop according to the strength or condition of the horse; if he is faint, so as to sweat soon, stop in time, and walk him to take breath and cool himself, for you are not to put him in a thorough sweat, but on those days which you appropriate for that purpose; which should be about twice a week till he commences hunting, and then he will not require any sweating in exercise; in this manner alternately walk and gallop, (so as not to sweat the horse,) till you find it time to return, which you should so manage as to keep the horse out about two hours, and after the conclusion of the last gallop,
and

and the horse has recovered his breath, and is cool, you should contrive to have water at hand to let him drink, and then have half an hour's walk home. If the water chills him, and makes the coat stare, a gentle gallop to warm him will be proper, but not to sweat him.

Horses are most fond of staling on litter, as it does not then splash them; and if the wet litter was spread in a convenient place without the stable, (some yards are strewed for that purpose, and for making dung) the horses standing a minute or two before they are put in the stable, will stale, and thereby keep your stable clean and healthy. When put in the stable, a bit of hay should be given that has been well shaken from dust and seeds; the quality of hay for hunters should be the choicest that can be procured, grown on a rich meadow, and cut before it gets too ripe: for hay, when it stands too long before it is cut, may answer the farmer's purpose by seeding his ground, and wanting less making, but for the good of the horse, it is preferable when cut young before

before it seeds, and with the sap in; then if it is well made, and got in in the dry, it will, fourteen months after, cut out as green as a leek, and the flowers retain their beauty nearly as when growing, and hay will never be better than when twelve or fourteen months old, but such hay as this is rarely to be got; yet, hay off good meadows, that has not been heated too much in the stack, is to be got; some admire it to be a little brown, but I think if it is twelve months old, having a fragrant sweet smell, it cannot be too green. New hay must on no account be given; there is a faintness in new hay that would be as detrimental to the horse as giving him grass.

The first thing after putting the horse to his rack-rein with a bit of hay before him, is to go down on your knees and wisp the legs, for the legs are always to be the first and last things attended to, and particularly after physic; then strip his cloth off, and give him a thorough dressing, agreeable to the manner I have directed; after which, give his feed of oats, being double the quantity,

quantity, or nearly so, to what you gave before going out; then having wisped his legs as the last thing, shake up his litter, and set the stable fair; if he has cleared the rack of the hay, (for I always recommend to give but a little at a time, that he may eat it with better appetite,) you may give a bit more if you think it necessary, but never give more than he will clear with a good appetite.

According to the time that you should come to stable at this part of the year, which, we will say, is five o'clock, it will now be time for you to breakfast (I suppose between eight and nine o'clock) and you may leave the hunters on the rack-rein while you have your breakfast, and they finish their hay.

At your return to stable, observe that all have cleared their racks, and if they have had sufficient time, and the racks not clear, take it away; loosen the rack-reins, put on the muzzles, and leave them for four
hours

hours to lie down if they will—it is a desirable thing for horses to rest their legs at all convenient opportunities.

This will bring the day as far advanced as two o'clock; when the days get short, you must be at stable sooner, so that you may contrive to be at home from exercise before dark. You should proceed now in like manner as in the morning, putting on the rack-rein, giving him a mouthful of hay, and a feed of oats in moderation; for you are not to fill him, or encumber him with food, particularly hay, when you are going to take him out. While the horse is feeding, clear the dung from behind him as in the morning; then strip and brush him over, previous to putting on his exercising-cloth and saddle, and take him out as in the morning. If you are situated in a country that affords a variety of suitable places for exercise, vary your places as often as convenient; it will be the more agreeable to both man and horse; and keep off the gravel road, chusing to go on the turf as much

much as you can; having been out about two hours, in which time you have given him two gentle breathings, you may let him have water, and return.

The stable as before, in your absence, should be cleared of all wet litter, and aired and refreshed against your return. After giving the horse the opportunity to stale, bring him in the stable, and repeat a rubbing of legs, and thorough dressing, having a mouthful of hay in the rack to amuse him; after his dressing give him his feed of oats, and a bit more hay, if he has cleared the rack of what he had at coming in; this will bring you to about five o'clock in the evening, at which time you may leave him on the rack-rein to eat his hay; and at eight return to finish for the night. If you gave him a sufficiency of hay at leaving stable at five o'clock, he will need no more, the horse having had three hours to feed with hay; if he is a slow feeder he ought to have cleared his rack by this time, and those that have not, I should take

take it from them; for the horse will have no appetite for hay that is glutted with it, and has it always standing before him, and you should always be mindful not to give too much, so as to cause him to leave any. You have now to feed with oats for the last feed; see that all their clothes are proper, not got atwist, and the like—that every horse finishes his corn, not leaving any; then loosen the rack-rein, put on the muzzle, and making up a good bed, having plenty of dry litter, and a large stall to lay his legs out at length, leave him for the night.

This is the daily routine of the hunting-stable, without any material difference, except on the days appropriated for sweating, which must be at least two days in the week till the hunting commences, at which time, if the horse is hunted twice in the week, there will be no occasion for sweating exercise.

I do not recommend hunters to be kept over-warm with clothes; they are exposed
frequently

frequently to cold and wet, and the more tender they are kept, the more likely they are to take cold; therefore, hoods and fillet-cloths may be dispensed with: but I think it necessary that each horse should have two cloths, one for exercise, which will occasionally come home wet and dirty, and the other for the stables. Your cloths should be occasionally scoured, and your exercising-cloth as often as it gets damp by rain, sweat, or dirt, carefully dried.

On the days which you give your horses sweating, which may be on Tuesdays and Saturdays, or any other days equally distant, contrive to give his sweats as contiguous to home as you can, particularly if the air should be thin and piercing, for the purpose of getting home to scrape and rub him dry; for when a horse is in a thorough sweat, a chilling air penetrating under a wet cloth may give him cold; therefore, the stable, or rubbing-house at hand, will be convenient to rub him dry, and prevent such a circumstance.

After

After having walked the horse for about an hour, bring him to the place you intend to gallop him, and begin very moderately, gradually increasing your speed till you get him to half, or three quarters speed, if he is hard to sweat ; at which rate you may continue him, till he is in a proper sweat, which will be sooner or later, according to his condition ; if he is fleshy and foggy, he will sweat soon, and his wind will be distressed ; in this case you may gallop the slower, not to distress the wind, but bring him to a sweat, which will waste his abundant flesh, and bring him in wind as the flesh diminishes. If you find him in wind, and hard to sweat, his condition is the better, and you may gallop him the stronger without injury. The meaning and intention of these sweats is, those that are in wind, to keep them so ; those that are not in wind, to get in wind ; to waste all abundant flesh, and get the carcase up ; throw out any foggy grossness remaining in the blood by perspiration ; it likewise cleanses the coat, making it sleek and soft, for the impercepti-

ble perspiration continually issuing through the pores, adheres so closely to the roots of the hair or coat, that it is not easily got out; but these profuse sweatings bring it away, and you will perceive the coat to be finer when well dressed after a good sweating.

The condition of the horse is to be discovered and judged of by his sweating; if he sweats soon, and the sweat ferments into a white lather like soap, he is foggy, and must have strong exercise to bring it away; if he requires strong exercise to bring him to a sweat, and the sweat is clear like water, and dries soon, he is in good condition; but if he sweats profusely, with little exertion, and the sweat, though then like water, is a long while drying, it shews a faint weak habit of body, which, with some horses, is constitutional, and such will seldom stand excessive hard days' hunting. Some horses sweat more profusely than others—this is not to be regarded as weakness, if it proceeds from strong exercise, and soon dries; constitutions differ in horses as well as in men.

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The horse having had his sweating gallop, should be brought into the stable or rubbing-house, and be scraped and rubbed dry with all possible dispatch, and a clean dry cloth put on him; not the one in which he was sweated, which should be got clean and dry against it is wanted again. If he had no water while out, you may give him some after he is perfectly cool and comfortable; and should the weather be very cold, the chill should be taken off, but not made warm; water that has stood several hours in a warm stable is sufficiently chilled, and may be given him; or you may, after rubbing him, walk him about, give him water, and gallop him gently to warm it, but not to heat him—then bring him home.

A horse treated in the manner I have directed, will, in three or four weeks after having been through his physic, be fit for hunting, if proper regard is had to his feeding. His food I have directed to be of the best and cleanest quality, and the quantity must be regulated according to circumstances,

stances, such as size, constitution, and the like; now the horse's daily exercise will be on the average not less than twenty miles per day; with this exercise the quantity he eats will not hurt him, if he does not get too fat, for the horse, for hunting, must have plenty of good feed in him, but must not be burthened with flesh. If he feeds heartily, he must have strong exercise to keep his flesh down, and his body up; if inclineable to have much belly, and be fat, he must be stinted proportionably; but when he comes to hunt twice or three times a week, there will be no occasion to stint him—he will never be burthened with flesh with such exercise.

The horse being got in condition, and the hunting commenced, you are relieved from that part which regards the sweating, and instead of giving exercise to keep the horse's flesh down, and give him wind, your exercise is now for the purpose of walking off stiffness, occasioned by over-exertion, bracing the system that has been

relaxed by excessive exercise, and creating appetite; hard running and long distances, continued for many hours, will consequently affect horses more or less, particularly at the beginning of the season before they are accustomed to it, so that their appetites will fail as well as their limbs be stiff; and your attention is now to recover the horse from that languor and debility occasioned by over fatigue.

Young horses, and those not seasoned to hunting, though in condition, are mostly affected by severe days, and such must not be expected to hunt more than one day in the week, for it will take nearly that time for them to recover from a hard run, either with fox or stag; but seasoned hunters will stand hunting twice a week, and some three times, though that for a continuance, I think, too much for any horse to stand, unless it is with harriers only, where there is seldom much hard running.

Now, to order your horses when they hunt, you feed and dress much after the same manner as before directed, only when you know of going out in the morning, rather shorten your allowance of hay in the evening, and increase his corn, but not so as to gorge him. He should always have a good bed, to invite him to lie down, and stretch his limbs, and his muzzle should be on ; for though many do not constantly use the muzzle, yet, if it is used at all, it is most proper at this time. In the morning put your horse on the rack-rein, but no hay before him ; this is what I have recommended to be your constant practice ; for if you make it a rule not to give hay till he comes home from exercise, the horse will not pine or look for it. If you are going a great distance to meet the hounds, or to cover twelve or more miles distance, you may give him a moderate feed of oats ; but if you are going to turn out a deer, or expect to find near at hand, let the horse go out perfectly empty, and

and on no account give him any water; if I washed his mouth, it should be from a bottle from which I should be certain he could not drink more than a pint; let him be thoroughly cleaned, and his legs well rubbed, and his saddle on, moderately girthed, at least an hour before going out; this will cause him to empty himself; for if you observe, most horses, when the saddle is put on, dung if they can; a quarter of an hour before wanted, put on his bridle, and have him perfectly ready; buckling him to the stall-reins, let him stand till wanted, with a cloth thrown over the saddle.

When horses come home from hunting, it necessarily follows that all expedition should be used to get them clean, and make them comfortable; if there has been hard running, and the horses come home leg-weary and tired, cleaning will be more refreshing than feeding, and therefore must be first attended to, not but the horse may have a bit of choice hay put into his rack to amuse him, if he will eat while he is

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dressing;

dressing; but when it has been a long day, and hard riding, many horses will be off their feed, particularly young and unseasoned horses; this, as a matter of course, is to be expected, though it is most to be desired that the horse should feed, and shews a fit constitution for extraordinary labour.

After a thorough cleaning, in which you must be particular to rub his head and ears well, and get him dry in every part, making him as clean as when he went out in the morning, you should carefully examine him all over, to see if he has received any injury from stakes, stumps, boughs, brambles, thorns, rails, flints, &c.; likewise that he is not galled with the saddle, girths, or breast-plate, if he wore one. When the horse has been refreshed with a good cleaning, he will be more inclined to feed than before, but if he will not, make yourself easy, for his appetite will return as his weariness wears off.

On

On returning home from hunting, it is usual to let the horse drink (for he must needs be very thirsty) at some convenient pond; the horse should not be suffered to drink too much at a time, which his extreme thirst might induce him to do, but letting him have about twenty gulps, ride on to another convenient place, and let him have the like quantity; and thus, by degrees, let him quench his violent thirst before he comes home, which will be better than letting him drink a vast quantity of cold water at once; should this have been neglected, he must have water with the chill off, but not warm, and when his thirst has been partly quenched, he probably will eat.

The legs, from excessive labour, will, of course, be weary, and often inclined to heat and inflammation, particularly if he has been rode among brambles and thorns, the greatest attention must be paid to them. Hot water should always be ready against horses come in from hunting, for the purpose of washing their legs, for nothing is
more

more refreshing to our legs and feet, when they burn with heat and weariness, than soaking in warm water ; it opens the pores, and draws the heat and inflammation away, and will be found equally as salutary to the horse as to ourselves. Let the water be hot, but not to scald, or endanger bringing the hairs off, and bathe the legs with it, having a piece of old rug for that purpose, which will hold much water and heat, and may be laid round the fetlock-joints and pasterns to foment, and draw out heat and inflammation, dipping it occasionally in the hot water as it gets cold : after fomenting the legs well, wipe them as dry as you can, first with a sponge, and carefully search with your hands if any brambles or thorns are lodged in the skin ; for your feeling will discover what your eye cannot perceive, and the pores being opened with the fomentation, they will be the more conspicuous, and less difficult to get out. Whatever you discover of this kind, must be picked out with care, so as not to enlarge the apertures they have made, nor break or leave any part

part of them in; for what is left in must occasion heat and inflammation till nature has expelled it, which she will do by discharging an ichor from the apertures, and thereby thrusting them out, so that scabs and scratches will appear where they have been; but, if carefully taken out in the first instance, much pain, heat, and scabs, will be prevented.

I have known thorns to penetrate deep, and break within the skin, and if such are not discovered and taken out, they will fester, and perhaps form a large abscess; an instance of which occurred with a person I knew, and the ignorant farrier opened it at the upper part, and put therein a tent of lint, dipt in tincture of some kind, most likely myrrh and aloes; had he opened the abscess at the bottom, the pus could have discharged without lodging and corroding the wound, nature would have done the rest, and the wound would have healed without a blemish; but, as it was, a fleshy substance grew within, occasioned by the tent,
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and though it was after a while healed, it was ever a blemish and eye-sore. I mention the above, to shew the necessity of carefully examining for thorns, and should a similar disaster happen, be sure to open the wound at bottom, so that the pus can discharge itself without lodging, and nature will do the rest, if you do not obstruct her; to assist her you may press the matter out, which will also press the skin down, and prevent the flesh growing inside, which it might do if the wound was kept hollow.

Having carefully searched, and extracted all brambles or thorns, wisp and wipe the legs perfectly dry; and when he is thus refreshed and had his water, if he will not feed, it is most likely for the best, for extraordinary exertion, more than he has been seasoned to, occasions an inward fever, and till rest and air have contributed to abate this fermentation of the blood, the appetite will not return. Some make themselves uneasy on this account, and wish to administer

nister something; many are for giving a warm mash, which the horse will not eat, then a comfortable warm drink (as they call it) or a cordial-ball, all of which is of no service; a dose of physic would be better, or taking some blood away, but I recommend patience till the next day; make him up, therefore, a good bed, and leave him to rest and stretch his weary limbs till the morning.

In the morning I make no doubt you will perceive the horse will feed a little; you must then proceed as before directed, and take the horses out to exercise—those which have been hunted, only to stretch their limbs, which may be stiff and sore, as we find ourselves after any extraordinary exertion, which we are not in the frequent habits of, and repeating it in moderation, will contribute greatly to take off the stiffness—so with the horse, the moving him about will gradually wear off the stiffness, and the fresh air will recover the lost appetite. Though I term this walking exercise,
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I do not mean you are not to exceed a walk the whole time you are out; that, perhaps, if the weather was very thin and cold, might increase the stiffness; but I call that walking exercise which puts the blood in free circulation without over heating it; you may, therefore, give the horse a gentle canter for a short distance, but not to cause him to break out in a sweat; particularly after giving water, gallop by way of warming it. Choose the airiest place for exercise, such as open downs, or high and dry grounds, and at your return to stable, your horses, if they were not very sick indeed, will find their appetite.

Horses that weary and sicken at a day's hunt, which may be the case with good horses at the first of the season, or young horses till they get seasoned, will require some days to recover before they are fit to hunt again; a week's respite may be necessary with some, others will recover in half the time. The sooner the horse comes to his appetite, the sooner he will be fit for labour;

labour; provided you have not been nursing with warm mashes and comfortable drinks, which relax and open the body, and should only be given when the horse is in reality ill; but loss of appetite from over-fatigue, only requires rest to recover it;—slops and medicines will not hasten the cure, but will unbrace or weaken the system, rendering it less fit for labour, and more liable to a return of the malady, with increased symptoms, the next time the horse hunts.

With regard to heat or inflammation, from the saddle or girths, washing the part with goulard is equal to any thing I have seen applied, and the legs, if hot and swoln with fatigue, may be washed likewise; it is a great repellant and cooler, and should always be kept ready on such occasions. Get the extract of lead from the chymist's, and prepare a quart bottle full at a time, and keep it for use. The manner of preparing it is, to put no more of the extract than will just turn the clear spring water to a milky white; whatever quantity of water you have in the bottle,

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put

put the extract to it by drops, shaking it, and when it is turned white there is sufficient; if you put more than sufficient, it will be less and less white, and consequently too strong. Some put a small quantity of brandy to it, which is optional—I see no occasion for it.

The washing the legs with the goulard, will heal or dry the scratches of thorns, and the small apertures they have made, and repel the humours from flying to them, and prevent scabs, and the like.

The feet are likewise to be attended to at all times. The horse should never go out of the stable, but, at his return, all road dirt should be picked out, and the feet examined, that no gravel is lodged under the shoes, for such in time would become tender, and cause lameness. When you wash the legs with warm water to cool and refresh them, it will also cool and draw pain out of the feet; water is beneficial to the feet; we find the feet less injured by travelling on wet

wet roads, than on dry ones; and the hoof, at grass, being continually wet with the dew, and moist ground, is in a better state than when kept in the stable; the casual wet you meet with in exercise on the roads, or the moisture of the turf or grass you exercise on, will contribute to preserve the foot from the injury which continually standing in a hot and dry stable occasions—one half of the pleasure-horses in London are ruined by standing so much in the stable.

In your daily attendances on the feet, you must take notice of the shoes. In the first place, observe that they are all fast, and not worn too thin, and the clenches all flat and smooth, or the shoe broke, as they will be sometimes when worn thin, and the iron bad; that the shoes have not got into the heels, or sunk in the feet, as they will when horses have not sufficient work to wear their shoes out, before the feet grows over them; in this case the shoes must be taken off to have the feet pared, and put on again, which is called a remove. The great im-

provement made in shoeing since the establishment of the Veterinary College, precludes the necessity of my giving an opinion on it. The ignorance and obstinacy of the old practitioners in farriery, were difficult to overcome, but at length have yielded to the superiority of study and science. The anatomy of the horse's foot is now clearly understood, and the benefit we derive from it, cannot but rejoice those who recollect the numbers of valuable horses that were crippled and spoiled by ignorance and error in shoeing. The post-horses, stages, and hackney coach horses, were comprised principally of crippled horses, or such as were termed groggy in the feet; the poor things stood with their feet forward in the greatest anguish, shifting from foot to foot alternately, for a little ease, and their very countenances were expressive of extreme pain; now, comparatively few such are to be seen. With care the foot is preserved to the last; whereas, formerly, a young fresh horse from the breeder, in the space of two years, his feet getting gradually worse and worse,

worse, became unfit and unsafe for a gentleman's riding, and, in his very prime, was cast off to hard labour, rendered more intolerable by unceasing pain.

But, though the improved system is now almost become general, that every person employed in shoeing of horses, knows how it ought to be done, nevertheless, there should be an exactness and care which some men will not observe; it may be necessary to apprise the man who forges the shoe, if the horse is apt to interfere, which is called cutting, and likewise if he over-reaches with his hind foot, striking it against his fore-shoe, which is extremely unpleasant; these things may be greatly assisted, or totally prevented by making and placing the shoe accordingly. The interfering is remedied by leaving the inner heel as high as you can, and paring the outer heel down in moderation; the inner heel of the shoe is made thicker than the outer; this raising of the inner heel throws the fetlock joints outwards or wider apart,

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which, with that part of the toe that is liable to interfere, being pared close, and the shoe no wise projecting, will prevent the interference, or what is called cutting.

The hind-shoe striking against the fore, which some horses are apt to do, is prevented by shortening the toe of the hind shoes, and not letting it project beyond the hoof when rasped to the shoe, so that if the toe struck, it would be the horn of the hoof that would strike, which will not make that unpleasant noise, which is beyond bearing.

When horses newly shod or removed, go unpleasant or unsafe, which before went safe and well, as is frequently the case, it is reasonable to suppose that the shoes are put on uncomfortably. I have had horses that have gone as if crippled, and have been apprehensive of their falling every step; the shoes, to all appearance, seemed well put on, and no appearance of the nails being too far in, so as to press on a vein, or the like: the cause of this I apprehend to have been

been, the shoe had only a partial, and not an equal bearing on every part; the parts that had not a bearing, from not being solid, the driving and clenching drew the hoof to the shoe, which must render the horse extremely uncomfortable. I think these cases are most likely to happen, where you caution them not to put the shoe hot to the foot, for it is difficult for them to fit the shoe to the foot, and be certain that it touches and bears equally on every part, without just applying the hot shoe; and though I do not approve of the shoe being so hot as to sear the foot to fit the shoe, yet the application of the shoe moderately hot, (to show where the shoe bears, and where it does not, that the buttrice or rasp may take down such places till the bearing becomes equal) is a less evil than putting the shoe on at a hazard, where there is not equal bearing all round. The driving the clenches down over much, may cause pain and uneasiness, but it is not so likely to pinch when the shoe sits solid, as when it does not.

When occurrences of extreme uneasiness happen immediately after shoeing, I recommend the shoes to be immediately taken off, and, though the farrier may insist nothing was amiss (for we are none of us fond of acknowledging an error that cannot be brought home to us) yet he may be careful to remedy the cause, whatever it may be, whether from the shoeing being too tight, or a nail struck too far in, unequally bearing, or the like. Not that you are to expect horses with bad feet will go as pleasant in new shoes as old; those with thin flat feet, and such as have been shod after the old system, having the bars of the feet pared away, and the heels contracted, will, till the shoes have got settled to the feet, go more tender and unpleasant at first.

The substance and weight of the shoe should be proportioned to the work or employ of the horse; never load the foot with more iron than is necessary to preserve it; if the horse's foot is light, let his shoe be light also, and if he works principally on
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the road, his shoes should be somewhat stouter.

The casual incidents that occur should be attended to, such as bruises, pricks, kicks, treads, and the like, which, if not very material, may be administered to, and cured without the aid of a veterinary surgeon; the injuries the bottom of the feet sustain, are generally from picking up nails, bruises on sharp flints, broken bottles, stumps of trees, and the like; these generally require the farrier to take off the shoe, and examine the wound, that nothing is left in, and a dressing of their hot stopping, with a few days rest, will effect a cure. Bruises and treads between hair and hoof, may become serious injuries if neglected; the material thing is to keep them clean, and apply some balsamic tincture, such as myrrh and aloes, friar's balsam, or the like, which may be procured at any chemist's; bruises from blows, kicks, and the like, should be bathed with any kind of repellants, such as cold vinegar, brandy, or goulard, any of which

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will

will contribute to disperse the bruised blood. All kinds of green wounds may be cured by the application of the before-mentioned balsams which defend the wound from the effects of the air, (the air causing wounds to wrangle and fester,) and where a bandage cannot be applied, will be found preferable to ointments and salves. Old ulcerated wounds, that have horny or proud flesh growing, or become pipey and fistulous, require the aid of the canterbury or knife, and here I recommend the assistance of a skilful veterinary surgeon, because, without professional experience, gentlemen had better not attempt it.

Some horses with brittle hoofs, when the roads are hard, will put out a sand-crack; this, if neglected, would become a very serious injury, but if taken in time may be prevented. You will perceive the horn of the hoof to crack or open from the crown downwards, at first discovering, perhaps, not more than an inch in length, but, if neglected, would soon be all through the
horny

horny part of the hoof from top to bottom, and then it would take a length of time to cure, and the horse all that while be unserviceable. But, in the first instance, as soon as discovered, take a cauterizing-iron and sear the hoof cross ways, at the bottom of the crack, moderately deep; this will prevent the crack from opening further: then, in like manner, sear the top just above the hoof, or what is called hair and hoof; this is to prevent the continuance of the crack as the hoof grows, which would be the case if this method was not taken to prevent it: then melt some Burgundy pitch, and fill up the crack, with the blade of a knife, dressing the seared places, to prevent the dirt and gravel getting in: let the horse rest a day or two, and then you may work him moderately.

It is not my intention to enter into a system of farriery, or to attempt to doctor horses beyond what I would practise on myself: if I by accident cut my finger, bruize my shins, take cold, or feel myself
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at any time slightly indisposed, I do not apply to a doctor—Nature, I have ever found, will do her own work if she is not obstructed; and those modes of assisting her, which have been established and practised time immemorial, are what I pursue with myself, and have found them equally efficacious with a horse.

Some persons are fond of physicing or bleeding their horses, when there is no apparent cause or reason for it, but when a horse is really ill, and stands in need of physic, they will not give him any. When a horse of mine has been ill, and I have given him a dose of physic, some have said I should kill him, to which I have replied, “Let me kill my horse my own way; if I send for a farrier, perhaps, he will kill him his way.”—But I ever had the good fortune to cure.

Grooms in general take upon themselves to bleed and physic at their own discretion; it is, therefore, necessary to assign some reason,

reason, and to shew when and for what purpose such methods are to be pursued; it is best to pursue such methods as preclude the necessity of either, for, with proper feeding, exercise, and grooming, there will seldom be occasion for physic; but sloth or idleness is the parent of disease, and thus it happens with horses, when they are well fed, and have no work—the vessels get filled and overcharged, the œconomy of the whole system is obstructed, and cannot perform their several functions; the stomach cannot digest its food; the blood-vessels get too full, and have not a free circulation; the lungs are oppressed, and have not free expansion, and, if timely relief is not given, a catalogue of disorders must ensue, for Nature will discharge or unburthen herself some way or other. When any symptoms of approaching illness or disorder appear, which may discover itself in various ways, such as refusing his food, languor and dullness, heaviness of the eyes, heat in the mouth, swelling of the legs, itchings, breakings out, &c. it will in general be proper to bleed, as a
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check, or an arrest to the advancing ~~ma-~~
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You now compare symptoms and circumstances together, to account for, if possible, the cause of the complaint; if the horse has been well kept, consequently full of flesh, and no work, (for I do not call walking a horse about to stretch his limbs, which ~~may~~ grooms will do, and are afraid of sweating them because of the trouble of cleaning them, sufficient to keep a horse in health,) you may reasonably conclude the vessels are overcharged, and evacuations must relieve them; in this case, going through a course of three doses of phytic, will prevent the threatened or approaching disease and restore the horse to health and vigour.

It may so happen that a horse over-fed, and too little worked, may not discover any symptoms of illness till after a day's riding and work, as some would call it, and from that circumstance you might not attribute it to the want of exercise, but in this you
may

may deceive yourself, for the malady might be in the horse before the work, and the unusual exertion might cause the discovery sooner than otherwise it would; the like remedy, therefore, is to be pursued.

If the horse has been in regular work or exercise, young and tender constitutions will sicken at unusual exertion, which is termed taking too much of them; in this case, the loss of a little blood, with a day's rest, will restore them. But sometimes taking too much, and at the same time when the horse is very hot, suffering him to cool too fast, will give him cold and cause a fever; in this case I bleed more copiously—give him plenty of diluting water, with a handful of oatmeal stirred in it, or boiled gruel, letting it stand till it is cold; if he will eat, mashes will be proper for him, as more light of digestion, and keeping the body open; a mild dose of physic may be given for this purpose; but, if you notice at the first, that the horse does not

not dung or empty himself as usual, (for, as you may observe, a horse in health will empty himself several times a day, as you scarcely go to stable but you have dung to remove from behind him) in this case the horse should have immediate relief, by raking, and the application of a glister; any sort of liquor that can be conveniently had, will answer the purpose to soften the hardened excrements, such as hot liquor, gruel, with a bit of lard in it, or the like; and be sure not to administer it too hot; but first let a lad, or any person with a small arm, rake or remove the hardened excrement lodged in the fundament, by larding the hand and arm, and introducing it up the anus; the hardened excrement may be felt, and by little and little taken away, and then the injectment of the glister will not be impeded; the administering of a glister, in the first instance, will very often effect a cure, and the horse will be fit for work in a few days. Should the fever continue without abatement, after the aqueducts are open, in the first instance letting

ting blood and opening of the body, keeping the horse cloathed, to prevent cold and promote perspiration, if Nature is inclined to throw it off that way, and frequent leading in the air, when it is mild and salutary, (but not if cold or piercing, such as would obstruct perspiration, or check the operation of physic) will, in general, effect a cure; should the fever continue violent, I administer James's powder, and I believe it to be as efficacious as any fever-drinks or powders that can be given: yet, after all, Nature does the work, for this is only working with, and assisting her. The obstruction of Nature causes disease, the continuance of thwarting and obstructing her will occasion death: if Nature is sufficiently powerful to operate, she will of herself effect the cure in time; but if the disorder is too powerful for Nature, she must be assisted, or the horse will die. Assisting Nature, therefore, effects or facilitates the cure, and should be always attended to, so that your remedies may second and assist her operations.

When

When horses take a violent cold, attended with a cough and the like, many will be nursing them in the stable, not letting a breath of wholesome air blow on them, and feeding with warm mashies, giving them comfortable drinks, and cordial or pectoral balls. I must confess I have done the same, but am of opinion it never forwarded the cure; when Nature effects the cure, whatever may have been the means applied, it is natural to suppose they effected or restored health, when it is possible they might rather have impeded than assisted in her operations; and this I believe is frequently the case in colds. When a horse takes cold, I perceive him to be affected exactly in like manner as myself when I have a cold on me; the offended or obstructed matter seeks to discharge itself by some means or other; sometimes a slight external cold, which may only occasion a stiffness or soreness in the part it was taken, Nature throws it off by exercise, perhaps with sweating it through the pores or through ducts or channels imperceptible to us; sometimes it flies inwards, and

and affects the bowels, which may ~~cause~~ violent inflammation and fever; at another to the lungs, which brings on the cough; mostly to the head, occasioning a running or discharge at the nose, and sometimes with eruptions and breakings out through the skin; now as I would treat myself under such circumstances, so I treat my horse. If it is slight, I keep myself warm, take air and exercise, and leave Nature to herself who, in slight cases, will do better without your assistance than with it; but if the attack is violent, I am perhaps more kind to my horse than myself, for I endeavour at a speedy cure for him, without consulting his liking, (whereas I have such an aversion to bleeding and physicing myself, that I defer it till I perceive it cannot be done without,) and then never apply to physician or apothecary, but with an emetic or cathartic set the doors open, and let the enemy escape as quick as possible. A horse cannot easily be made to vomit, and therefore it is never attempted by me; but bleeding, purging, staling, sweating, and rowelling, are the

usual channels that disease retires by, when skill or medicine attempts to dislodge her. Comfortable drinks and cordials I never administer, not that I think they do injury where the bowels are not attacked with inflammation and fever, but because I think they do no more good than my eating a spiced gingerbread nut, which I should never take to cure a cold, though I am fond of them, yet, because I like them, I may be induced to eat them, and say they are exceeding good things to warm the stomach, and keep the wind out on a cold morning, thereby prevent taking cold; but, when the malady has got deep hold of me or my horse, I dont resort to them for a cure.

In the first attack of a cold, warm cloathing will assist Nature in any of her operations; if no fever attends the cold, moderate exercise in the clear air, such as will warm and keep the blood in free circulation, without heating him, will be far better than standing in the stable breathing a confined air, which is hurtful to the lungs,

and increases the cough; should the cough be bad, and the breath short and oppressed, take about two quarts of blood away, and it will greatly relieve both, and give a gentle dose of physic; let the chill be taken off his water, but if he will drink gruel, it will be better for him; regard should be paid to keep the horse in the dry, and care that he does not take fresh cold: thus, with warm cloathing, air, and gentle exercise, with a dose or two of physic, will a cold be got rid of sooner than with stable-nursing, mashes, and cordial-balls.

Should a fever attend the cold, the horse will be off his feed, become languid and weak, and consequently cannot be exercised, otherwise than being led out for the air, in the mild and clearest part of the day, but in other respects the like methods may be pursued; bleeding and physicing are the likeliest means of abating the fever, and dislodging obstructed matter, which is the cause of it.

It gives me no concern or uneasiness when the horse is off his feed, and cannot be brought to eat; this is the natural consequence of fevers, and till the fever is abated it is best for him not to eat, as food would increase the disorder. If he will drink plentifully of gruel, that has been well boiled, and made moderately thin for him to drink, he will take no harm by not eating. When the horse is led out for air, let the stable be cleaned and aired as much as possible, for the very breath of the horse, in a violent fever, is sufficient to contaminate the confined air, and fresh wholesome air will greatly contribute to the recovery of the horse.

When the above methods have been taken in time, they generally effect a cure; but if the fever is very violent, further means may be necessary—sweating and rowelling are resorted to, but, as I observed in the first instance, James's powders will be equal to any sweating that can be given, and as to rowelling, it is disagreeable to most people, and

and therefore is generally the last thing resorted to, and for which reason I think it is not practised one quarter so much as it was formerly. It is mostly necessary, when there is a violent flux of humours flying about the horse, occasioned by a long continuance of foul and bad feeding, whereby the whole mass of blood is impoverished, and is in a more or less corrupted state; these aqueducts may then be opened to draw away the foul matter from the blood, and in time will effect a complete change of the system.

When the above description of horses fall into people's hands, they occasion a deal of trouble and perplexity to get them to rights, and many are not worth the trouble when you have done all you can; we frequently find a subject like this in a young horse, that probably was got from a good stock, but bred on a bad soil. Some people may suppose, that if the horse does not work, it matters not what he eats, so that he finds something to eat and fill his skin with;

horses that are turned out to shift for themselves in various kinds of wastes, that afford no good pasturage, must eat such as they can find, and if the quality is bad and improper, the constitution must be weakened and injured thereby; for it is evident that every animal is materially affected by the food that he eats; even the butter of one dairy is found to be far preferable to a contiguous one, owing only to the difference of the pasturage; no wonder, then, if a horse which has subsisted for years in swamps and wilds and wastes, eating nothing but faint, foggy, and deleterious food, till he is thought fit to be made up for market, should, when he comes to stand in a stable, and do a little work, exhibit a weak debilitated state of body, that is incapable of work, and the legs swell and fly to pieces, as they term it, if he stands still.

When a person unfortunately has a horse of this description, (for it is only a few that are capable of judging of the constitution of the horse by external appearances, and these
horses

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become fine after such a course of cleansing; but if extraordinary care is not taken they soon shew evident signs of being worse, and then a consideration takes place what is further to be done—sometimes a repetition of the physic is pursued; at others a course of diuretic ball, which in general I have observed to be attended with no better success than the physic; leaving off, therefore, apparently no better than they began, they of necessity now take to the means that should have been pursued from the first, that of using every method of preventing the legs from swelling, for otherwise the horse's heels will break out in chops and sores, discharging a thin offensive ichor, and, if neglected, would soon spread up to the houghs, and become what is called, the grease. The above description and process, I think will be acknowledged to be correct by those who are conversant with horses and the practice of grooms.

I have now to give my opinion of the cause and the method I think most likely to cure,

cure; and this it may appear strange that I, who never professed a knowledge of farriery, or practised on any other than my own horses, should attempt to do, when the assistance of so many professors are to be had at every part of the town, who have regularly studied, and passed examinations as duly qualified, by the Veterinary College. I profess to have a great respect for gentlemen who appropriate their studies for the benefit of the horse, and would not, knowingly, give an opinion in contradiction to their superior judgment; should my ideas coincide with their's, I shall be exceedingly proud of it; for I profess to write only from observations I have made, and opinions of my own; not meaning or presuming to offer to the public a treatise on farriery, which I acknowledge myself to be incapable of, but only how the ordinary occurrences of the stable may be treated, which every professed groom, or superintendant of stables is expected and supposed to be competent to manage; recommending all extraordinary or difficult cases to those who have made it their study and

and profession. Nor should I have presumed so far, but at the instance of several gentlemen I have had the honour of attending in my professional capacity, and who, probably, entertain an opinion (from the many years' experience and observation I have had among horses,) I do not merit; be that as it may, persons are to read, compare, and judge for themselves. I shall not cavil or dispute with any man that may differ with me in opinion, in respect to treating the diseases of the horse; for if two professional men were consulted separately, it is a query to me if they would not give different opinions of the cause of complaint, and the method of cure. But, with respect to the part of this work which I have followed as a profession, I shall maintain that every precept I have laid down to be correct, nor will I give up to any person's different opinion, unless they can convince me by palpable demonstration; and this I have no apprehension of, for I can demonstrate every precept I have here asserted, though

though some have been inclined to think some things next to impossible.

One thing further I have to observe, that I have no interest in my observations relative to the treatment of horses in the stable. I have no intention of taking horses immediately under my direction; I give no prescriptions of my own, nor vend those of others, for which the generality of publications on medicines are intended. Gentlemen may procure their medicines of the veterinary professors, who have them always ready prepared, and consult, if they think necessary, the propriety of giving them. But to return.

I attribute the legs to swell, from one or other of the following causes:—

First, from over-fatigue or labour, in which case I have recommended warm fomentations to draw out the heat and inflammation (for warm water certainly cools, as we experience in ourselves); if the feet are
swollen

swollen and heated with over-walking, rest and moderate exercise, with the fomentation, will restore them in a few days.

Another cause of the legs swelling, is the want of exercise: in this case the blood gets too gross or thick, which causes the grosser parts to lodge in the extreme fine arteries, the most distant or remote from the heart, and this causes swelling and inflammation; this matter must again be put in circulation, and expelled through bleeding, physic, or exercise; if it is taken in the first instance, and no other symptoms appear with it, regular exercise will carry it off, discharging it where it should have been expelled before, through the pores of the skin by gentle perspiration; but if let alone too long, bleeding and physic may be necessary to bring the legs fine, and, as I have mentioned the cause, care should be taken that such cause should no longer exist, for the parts being weakened by the malady, if exercise in moderation is not given, the swelling of the legs may again be expected.

The

The third and last cause that I can assign for legs swelling, is a corrupt, bad, and impoverished state of the blood, occasioned, as I apprehend, by a long continuance of poor unnutritive food, which has weakened and enfeebled the system. Now in the other instances, the richness of the blood caused the malady ; in this the poverty and feeble state of the blood causes it to loiter in the fine arteries that are enfeebled and remote from the heart, which is the spring of action ; and this accounts why physic does not effect or promote the cure in this instance as in the preceding one, because physic for a time weakens and relaxes the system, and it is the nutritive food, with proper exercise and air, that strengthens, invigorates, and braces the system.

While the physic is in operation, the blood is put in quicker circulation, which causes the legs to be fine for the time, but, the operation over, the parts are weaker, and less able to dislodge the loitering malady than before ; too often repeating the physic
I think

I think detrimental, and what now should be aimed at is to use means to prevent the blood from loitering and lodging in these parts, which renders them still weaker and weaker, till the system is renovated by alterative medicines, and clean wholesome food, with regular exercise.

To prevent the legs swelling, walking exercise and air, in the morning and afternoon, and bandages by night are necessary, for you will find when the horse has stood six or eight hours his legs begin to swell; for a bandage procure rollers of canvass, or such like stuff, sufficiently long to bind round the pastern and fetlock, up to the houghs, and to prevent the bandage pressing improperly on the tendon or back sinew, lay pledgets of hay-bands, nearly untwisted, and moistened to make them sit comfortable on each side up the sinews, so that the bandage may press those parts which lie in a hollow, and are most likely to swell.

The offending matter lodging in the extremities,

tremities, renders the parts weak, and the more they are assailed, the weaker and less able they become to perform their functions; the bandage will prevent the humours lodging there by night, and the exercise by day, and the parts will, as the blood gets refined or rectified by proper food and exercise, with alteratives, recover their strength and vigour, and then the bandages are no longer necessary.

Various things are administered by different persons as alteratives and rectifiers of the blood: some will strew flower of sulphur; others nitre and antimony; some will sprinkle their hay with urine, others will give an ounce of fine cut tobacco with their corn, and professional men will supply you with alterative balls, ready prepared. I leave my readers to their choice which to adopt—circumstances may occasion different determinations; if the malady is slight, good food and looking after may soon bring the horse about; but if appearances are bad,
I think

I think a rowel may draw off much of the offending matter, and promote a cure.

If, as it often happens, where horses are not properly attended to, but are let alone till the heels chap and become running sores, (which they will do in any of the instances if neglected) you must be mindful to wash them with warm water, and keep them very clean, for the humour issuing from these sores is sharp and offensive, and if not kept clean will spread very fast, and occasion such soreness that the horse cannot move his leg at first without extreme pain, because the chap is thereby opened. If the chaps are slight, not attended with much inflammation, and no appearance of small pustules issuing an ichor, and scabbed, I should judge them to be occasioned more by neglect than by disease, in which case, after washing them clean and drying them, you may apply some white drying ointment, which you can procure at any chymist's, and with care and keeping clean they will soon be well. But if they have originated from

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the cause. I am now treating on, from a vicious and bad state of the blood, and suffered to get to this length of chaps in the pastern joint, and scabbed about the pastern and fetlock, they must be poulticed, to draw the sharp and offending matter from them, for such cannot be repelled and thrown into the circulation again; after poulticing a few times, washing also, and keeping them clean, you will perceive the pain and anguish to have subsided; you may then let them heal and dry, and use the means as above, of preventing the humours from lodging there.

Goulard water, as I have before mentioned, is a great repellant and dryer, and may be used to repel the humours from settling till thrown off through other channels, such as bleeding and rowelling, gentle cathartics, and mild diureticks; but the two last I recommend to be mild, and not often repeated, lest, while you correct one part, you weaken another.

The best constitutions require much at-
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tention to the legs, with the daily rubbings, as I have directed, but extraordinary care is requisite in these constitutions which are termed foul and gummy-legged, such are the appellations given to this description of horses.

Malenders, Salenders, and scratches are species of the same disorder, making their appearance in the joints of the hough and knees, and the scratches on the legs; these I attribute entirely to filth and neglect, seldom making their appearance where horses are in any degree looked after: the means prescribed for the gourdy or greasy legs will also cure these, but withal care and cleanliness.

I have been led into this long detail of ordering horses with foul legs, from pointing out cases where I think it necessary to physic and bleed.

Another occasion for physic, will be when you perceive a horse to be infested with
worms

worms. Horses, who labour under this complaint, do not always void them in their dung, but may be judged of by appearances, such as the horse not thriving on his food, the coat having a dull appearance and staring, the carcase tucked up and hide-bound, and the horse greedy and ravenous—these are the usual symptoms.

The most certain cure that I know of, (for I have tried various recipes, that are handed down from one groom to another, as certain of destroying them, without effect,) is calomel. If, therefore, you apply to your veterinary professor, for mercurial physic, you will have it ready prepared; but should you have plain physic by you, for grooms and stable-keepers generally have them by dozens or grosses; and are so situated that you cannot conveniently procure it ready prepared; you may get the calomel at any chymists, by giving an account for what purpose you want it, and how you are going to apply it, otherwise they will not serve you. Have your calo-

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mel weighed by them in proper doses; I usually give a drachm and a half, and from that to two drachms, for a dose, according to the size or constitution of the horse, and when it is not made up in the physic, I give it in the following manner. I moisten a handful or two of bran in a bowl, and strew the calomel in it, mixing it well together, this I give the horse over-night, and the next morning his physic. I think it necessary to caution you to be careful not to lay the calomel heedlessly about, nor administer it in larger portions than directed, because much mischief or inevitable death may ensue. A circumstance occurred within my knowledge: the calomel was mixed with the bran, and left ready to be given; a horse for which it was not intended accidentally happened to be loose, and eat the preparation, the consequence of which was, it was expedient he should have physic, which was also given; but this circumstance not being known to the master, he had sent a servant to take this horse to go on a message eight or ten miles; the only person who knew

knew of the circumstance not being present, the horse was taken, and the servant finding the horse grow faint and sick, could not account for the reason; he rode him into a pond, and let him drink, and with difficulty got home—the horse died. I would not have it thought that calomel is an unsafe medicine to be given, but that precaution and care should be taken to order and manage the horse accordingly, for in the above circumstance, if the physic had been taken without the calomel, I think the horse would not have got over it.

The calomel being given as directed over night, you must be certain that the physic is taken the next morning, and the only difference of ordering your horse is to be careful that he does not take cold, for mercury is very searching and penetrating, and if checked in its proper course, will certainly take a course that is not desirable; additional cloathing to what the horse has been accustomed to, and agreeable to the season or temperature of the air, should be put on;

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keeping

keeping him in the dry, and from any sharp penetrating winds, and letting his water be warm—I dont mean hot, but something under blood warm, for sometimes I call the blood hot; you require the horse to drink plentifully in physic, but the warmer the water, the less he will drink of it; nevertheless, with mercurial physic dont let it be too cold.

Three doses of mercurial physic is certain, I think, of destroying every species of worms that infest the body, some of which are exceedingly hurtful, and destroy the very coats of the stomach, and occasion death.

When a horse eats heartily, does regular work and no more, is properly looked after, yet his coat looks dead, his hide bound, and body tucked up, if he has not worms, he has some chronic disease, (such as is termed a surfeit, or such like,) for which I should always administer mercurial physic in preference to the plain.

When

When horses under the predicament of lameness, so that they cannot work, are likely to be idle for several weeks, feed sparingly, and occasionally give a moderate dose of physic, to prevent consequences arising from idleness; but when in health, exercise precludes the necessity.

Blistering and cauterizing are remedies frequently practised, or at least recommended by grooms; there are circumstances in which they may be necessary, but many times they are advised by the grossest ignorance, and the person thinks himself of no small importance in proposing remedies, as he imagines it shews him to be a great adept in his profession. Farriers, frequently as ignorant as the grooms, find an interest in being on terms with them, and therefore seldom oppose their opinion; so that if a consultation is held between master, groom, and farrier, two to one are certain to carry the proposition, and the horse is sometimes needlessly tortured.

The actual cautery is much disused to what it was formerly; it was then common to fire a horse that was perfectly sound, to harden and callous the sinews, and render them less liable to extension; now blistering seems to be more prevalent, but because it is serviceable in several instances, it is sometimes unnecessarily applied. I shall mention a few instances wherein I think blistering serviceable.

The cause of lameness in a horse, where there are no external appearances, is sometimes so difficult to find out, that I have known four persons give as many opinions of the seat of lameness, and perhaps neither of them right. Where the seat of the disease is not to be ascertained, I shall not pretend to prescribe a cure; but it sometimes happens that a horse puts out what is called a curb, which is a hard protuberance or substance, formed just below the point of the hock, becomes sore, and occasions lameness; this taken at first appearance, is removed, and perfectly cured by a blister, but
if

if you let it continue for a while, the substance will increase, and be more troublesome to remove, requiring a stronger blister, or twice blistering; other extraneous substances, at their first appearing, such as splents, (substances growing on the shank bone, which, if small, are not worth notice, but if large, and growing near the back sinew, will be troublesome, and cause lameness,) may be removed, or greatly-assisted by blistering. As may, also, if taken at an early period, spavins, and thorough pins, which are hard bony substances forming on the joints of the houghs, &c.; any such extraneous hard substances taken in the first instance, may be greatly reduced by blistering.

When horses have for a length of time been accustomed to excessive labour, whether from hunting or road-riding, their sinews and joints will become what is termed bummed, that is, the pastern-joints and sinews will become enlarged and stiff. Exercise, or work in moderation, is not only conducive

conducive to health, but likewise strengthening and bracing to the whole system; but we find the best things taken or used to excess, become pernicious and hurtful; without labour, the joints and ligaments get relaxed and weak, which causes the horse frequently to make a drop, and many a good horse on sale has been rejected for a circumstance of this kind, which regular work would have removed: but again, when the labour for a continuance has been excessive, the joints and sinews become more enlarged; then rest, with the ordinary means of grooming, will restore them, but the horse at first going out will appear very stiff, and sometimes lame; turning them out for two or three months, may refresh the legs, and bring them somewhat finer, but still where the sinews have been much oppressed with heavy or long continuance of immoderate work, a weakness will remain, and blistering will be advisable. Now as the blistering should be previous to the turning out, the judgment is to determine whether there is a necessity for both; if the horse is but

but little gorged about the legs, and but little stiff at first going out, without any perceptible weakness or lameness, the turning out I should judge would sufficiently restore him; but, on the other hand, you must blister and turn out. I cannot persuade myself that blistering is good, if there is not the necessity for it, though I have known several that make a practice of it, alledging that if it does no good, it does no harm; how far that doctrine may be just, I will not take upon me to determine, but I know it puts the horse to a deal of pain, and without proper care is taken, the horse may be greatly disfigured by it, for which reason I shall give the following directions and cautions.

Formerly they used strong blistering ointment, more properly indeed, a burning caustic, which absolutely brought skin and hair off, to the great disfigurement of the horse, but now a more mild process is used, that with care will not be any detriment, and if once blistering does not answer, they repeat

repeat it. You may procure your pot of blistering ointment of any veterinary professor or chymist, many of them in London having it always ready prepared of a proper strength, not to bring the hair off.

The first thing you have to do, is to clip the hair off as close as possible from the place you intend to blister, leaving it as bare as though it was shaved. If the blister is only to remove a curb or splent, &c. you clip no farther than such excrescence runs, but when for gorged or bummed legs, you clip all round the fetlock joints and pastern, and on each side, and up the back sinews, as high as you perceive the sinews to be enlarged or extended; this done, with a knife you spread the blistering ointment of a moderate thickness on every part you have cleared the hair from for that purpose, and then putting the horse into a stall cleared of litter, which would stick to or wipe part of the ointment off, you must be certain of fastening his head securely to the rack, that he cannot by any means get loose, for should
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he be able to get at it with his mouth, and the blister was risen, he would be apt to tear the skin off, and occasion it to leave scars or places bare of hair, and before it rises, he will blister his nose and lips; therefore, the greatest care must be taken to prevent these circumstances; the horse can very well feed from the rack, which, if he is going to be turned out, is all that is necessary, and his water may be lifted up in the manger to him. The anguish of the blisters will occasion the horse to stand and kick, and break out into sweats; his cloaths therefore may be left off previous to turning out, and thus you keep him till the blisters have done drawing, and all the anguish ceases; after this you will perceive the hair to stare, and the wounds to dry and scab, which you must be mindful not to rub or hasten off, but let them take their own time; if the horse is kept in stable, and the scabs become very dry, the oil-brush may be rubbed over them, which may loosen and bring them off the sooner, without injuring the hair; the hair will stare for some

some time, but if well done, and care taken, will grow and be no disfigurement.

When horses have been hard worked, turning out is a natural consequence, to refresh their limbs, but they are also turned out when not wanted for present use. The hunter, when the season is over, is turned into good grass to cool his body, and refresh his limbs, which, if he has been regularly hunted the season through, must stand much in need of it; but if only occasionally, and he is wanted for the road, there is no necessity for it. I have known horses to be kept in stable a dozen years, without eating any green food, yet have continued in health and condition; there are some constitutions in horses that will not thrive and look well in the stable for any continuance, but get tucked up, hide-bound, and dead-coated; yet such, in my opinion, are not worth keeping; they will have a tolerable appearance, after a month or six weeks' grass, which is the best time to dispose of them, for they will soon return to their
their

former state in the stable, with only having moderate work. I would not have it understood that grass is improper for horses; on the contrary it is very good where they can be spared; and pleasure-horses that are only moderately rode, may be kept to grass and worked occasionally, all the summer, giving them corn when they work. It is for appearance and ability to do extraordinary work, if required, that condition is in such request. The horse that runs at grass, and is worked all the summer, is soon got into condition for hunting in the winter, for his occasional working prevents him getting over-fat and gross with the grass; and without physicing when you take him up, give him dry food, with some good sweats, and he will soon be in wind and condition for hunting.

Turning out in winter to a straw-yard is a custom with those who keep a horse for pleasure in the summer, and have no occasion for him in the winter; they will tell you how beneficial it is for the horse, cooling to the body, and bracing to the limbs,

but these arguments do not meet my concurrence. Whatever may suit a man's taste or convenience, he will be sure to find some pretext or excuse for; and, like an old acquaintance of mine, who is fond of a dram, is never at a loss for a pretext to take one— if he is hot, it is to prevent taking cold; if he is cold, it is to warm him; and if neither, he is sure to be troubled with the wind. So with those who do not like the expence of keeping a horse in stable in winter, when they can seldom ride, they would persuade themselves it was beneficial to the horse to be famished with cold and hunger for five or six months. To keep horses in stable, I admit is very expensive, and in London, without work, and where exercise is not convenient to be given, is injurious to the horse; but not near so hurtful as to be nearly famished, as I have seen some taken up from a straw-yard, and had scarcely recovered an appearance fit for a gentleman to be seen on their back, before the season arrived for their turning out again; how much the constitution must be weakened and

and debilitated, I shall leave my readers to judge. When a horse has been rode hard all the summer, his legs may become gorged, and require rest to refresh and bring him about, and this may be the only season he can be spared; therefore, under all circumstances, it is more convenient than beneficial for a horse to be turned out in winter.

When it becomes expedient either for the refreshment of the horse's limbs, or the sparing of the owner's pocket, I cannot but recommend that the horse should be prepared for the extraordinary change he is to undergo, by first leaving off his clothes, then removing him to a cooler stable, leaving off dressing, giving him less, at last no corn, and by degrees to an empty stable or shed to lay under.

When gentlemen have conveniences of their own, to turn horses out in winter, there is no doubt of their being taken care of; in open weather there is much pasturage, and in hard weather an out-house or
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stable to lay in, with plenty of hay. A horse may be benefitted by a winter's run of this sort, but I am alluding to straw-yards, where they take in all that come, and account they do well by them, if they keep them alive; which has been the case with many I have seen; not but a horse may do well when he is up to his belly in clean straw, and can pick and cull the ears to fill his belly, but where they take in for pay, men scarcely ever think they are overstocked, and that which is scarcely fit for them to lie on, becomes their food. Therefore it behoves those who send horses to straw-yards, not to rely altogether on specious promises, but to occasionally visit them to see how they fare, and they must not be surprized if they do not know their own horse for the alteration sometimes is beyond a person's conception: a horse in the rough is so different from what he appears when kept clean and handsomely trimmed; how much more so must it be, when, reduced by cold and poverty, his flanks hollow, his crest fallen, his coat long and staring,

ing, and the colour completely changed by the weather, his spirits flagged and dejected; this is the state many are reduced to by a winter's turning out, and to recover them to the state they were in previous to turning out, if the constitution is not so injured as to preclude it, would cost from ten to twenty pounds.

I leave persons, then, to judge for themselves of the prudence and œconomy of turning out in winter.

The giving horses green food in stable, is called soiling; it is not convenient for those who keep no more horses than they have use for, to turn them out to grass, and particularly in that season when people take pleasure on horse back, or travel for business; the work of horses of this description is hardly to be called exercise, perhaps not more than ten or fifteen miles a day on the average, and their pace seldom exceeding more than six or eight miles an hour, and that for very short distances, as fast riding in hot weather

is neither genteel nor pleasant. Under such circumstances, green food in the stable, as a cooler and alterative, is admissible, and highly proper, for some constitutions will not do well without it; dry food for a long continuance not agreeing with them, and no quantity of dry food that you could give would make them thrive, but they will be lank, do all you can. I have hinted that such a description of horse is not worth keeping, but where work is so exceedingly light, they serve instead of a better horse, and their paces and action may be very good, though their constitution, like some of ours, may not be the most robust.

Green food to horses is a kind of natural physic, cooling and opening the body, and may preclude the necessity of other physic, for you will perceive at his first having green food, particularly if he works with it, he will void his dung quite soft, if not scower; this is the benefit he derives from it, but after a while it will not have that effect though you work him as usual. I would advise

advise his work to be moderate on green food, as then it will do him the more good by staying with him, and letting down his carcase, but if he works too much, he will throw it out too quick, and receive no benefit.

Green food when cut, soon spoils, and I therefore caution my readers who buy the bundles of vetches or tares that are brought into London, to be mindful that they are fresh and cool; they sometimes have been cut, and lain so long, as to heat and begin to rot, consequently must be hurtful; you should have them fresh every day, and of course will take in no more than you consume, for they soon spoil, particularly if they are wet, and laid together; the best way is to spread them, to keep them from heating.

The requisite duties of a groom, with the conducting and management of the stables, having been considered, there still remains a degree of knowledge which is expected

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from grooms, relative at least to soundness; blemishes, admirable qualities, defects, age, &c.; for it frequently happens, particularly where gentlemen have not made it a study to inform themselves of these points, (while others, again, are better judges than one half the dealers) that they depend much on the opinion and judgment of their grooms; this is natural, and exceedingly proper that gentlemen should have servants they can safely place dependance in; but they should be very certain of the worthiness of that servant they place confidence in to bargain for horses. I have seen and know so much of the nefarious practices of grooms, and others, who make a business of looking out horses to suit gentlemen, that I would recommend any person to rely on a dealer of respectability, whose real interest it is to suit and please those who favour him with their business and recommendations; for after a while they best know not only what will answer the purpose you want him for, but in other respects what will be agreeable to your fancy; it is sometimes more difficult
to

to suit the person, than find the horse, because there is such an infinite variety in horses, that I may justly compare it to the human face—out of a thousand, you will not find two exactly alike; yet you may select numbers from them that would be acknowledged fine figures, and good action, but every one different in some particular or other, all esteemed to be good, yet some will prefer this, another that, and so on. It is very difficult to suit those who have not been in the habit of riding a constant variety of horses; a person that has been in the habit of riding one horse only, for a length of time, becomes so accustomed to the manner and feeling of that horse under him, that it is sometime before he can fancy any other, and scarcely two feel alike; this makes it so difficult for some persons to suit themselves, for the horse must not only be good in all external appearances, and qualities, but must also ride like what they have been accustomed to. There is not a more unpleasant office than to choose or select a horse for another person, and none but indif-

ferent horsemen, or those very diffident of their own judgment, that require it; there is generally a disappointment, mostly arising from bad treatment, bad riding, or the like, whereby the horse becomes altered for the worse: those unacquainted with horses, dont conceive their riding can alter the horse, which it may to such a degree as not to appear worth half the price that was given, and be liable to fall, from the slovenly way the horse is brought to carry himself by either a dead insensible hand, or a hand that abandons the horse; others again suppose, that a young horse, fresh and full of spirits, and perhaps purchased at a very high price is; or ought to be capable of doing work with any inferior priced or old and apparently worn-out horses; but here is the mistake—the high-priced horse very frequently is not capable of work to any extreme; if he is good in nature and constitution, he may by degrees be seasoned, and when in condition may be able to work with any horse, but that is a chance which every one must stand, for

none can tell from appearances the bottom of a horse; those that show the most fire and spirit will sometimes sicken and give in first; therefore, those who expecting performances according to price, take off his appearance in one day's riding twenty pounds, and what will require a week to recover. But if they persevere in thus riding, before the horse has been gradually seasoned to work, and in condition for it; they soon reduce a hundred-guinea-horse to the appearance of a dog-horse, and think the dealer a rogue and a cheat for selling them such a horse; particularly if they will not take him back at an allowance of ten guineas.

That there is bad, over-reaching and ill-principled men in the horse-dealing profession, I will allow; but I likewise know that some are truly respectable in their profession, but none, under any circumstances, are fond of having a horse appear a second time in their stables. I will give some reasons for it, which may do away part of the prejudices which some people have for the dealers

dealers who will not take a horse back perhaps the next day, at the allowance of two or five guineas.

The stables of most dealers of eminence and respectability, are a sort of lounge for those gentlemen who are continually in the habit of buying and selling horses; they are exceeding good judges, and never let any thing extraordinary escape them, for they not only want extraordinary horses for themselves, but noblemen and gentlemen of their acquaintance are fond of buying them, conceiving they are sure of having a thorough good horse out of their hands, and never regard what price they give. These gentlemen are the dealers' best customers, and on whom they chiefly depend to take off the fresh purchases; they attend frequently to see if any thing fresh is at hand, and can recollect in a manner every horse they once notice. Whatever disposition they have to purchase, for they sometimes hang off for some days, in expectation of having it a guinea or two cheaper, while

while another bargains and has the horse. The horse once sold, should the person wish to return or exchange him, though without any reasonable cause or fault, but mere whim and caprice, his former admirers blow upon him, and though the dealer from the exchange, or terms on which he took the horse back, could afford to sell him for a less sum than they before offered, they will not have him upon any terms, and the horse frequently sticks on hand months before a casual customer may take him off. This is one reason why dealers object to take a horse back, even if the horse is as good in appearance as when he parted with him, which sometimes is not the case, for they generally take a day's trial with him, and, as I have observed, twenty pounds in appearance is soon taken off a horse that is not in condition for work. Every man in trade speaks in the highest terms of the article he has for sale, and the dealer may tell you he is full of hard meat and fit for immediate work, but you must not believe him; it is a great chance if they have such
a thing

a thing by them; they never put their horses into other condition than for sale, which is to fill them out, keep their coats decent, and their legs from swelling. If they take a horse from a gentleman in chop (as they term it) that happens to be in condition, his condition would be lost if he staid by them a fortnight, for the necessary time and attendance to keep him so is what they cannot afford.

Persons conversant with buying and selling horses, never think of returning them, unless any unsoundness should be discovered that was not perceived, or disclosed, for horses are bought and sold by their external appearances, and a cursory view and feeling of their action, by which you are to form a judgment of their quality, capacity, and your liking; but no dealer would ensure to you, what he never could ensure to himself, that the horse shall turn out all you wish or require him to be; he may be a hardy horse, or he may be a tender horse; he may be a bottomed horse,
or

or a dunghill horse; you may suppose him to be much faster than on trial he proves to be; and he may have habits, perhaps in themselves mere trifles, which may be unpleasant, particularly to an indifferent horseman, which could not be immediately discovered; this is a chance which every person who purchases a horse must more or less abide by, and those in the habit of frequent buying think nothing of it; they never offer the horse back, nor mention their disappointment, but wait till they find a customer for him, for some are satisfied with a moderate good horse, and others admire what another dislikes.

But the unskilled in horses soon take a dislike, and frequently without any material cause; and not being in the habit of disposing of horses, he naturally applies to the person to take him back, and thinks him an unfair dealer to refuse it, if he allows him a few guineas to boot.

Now I have shewn one great cause of
dislike

dislike to taking a horse back, another is, that the money to be returned would provide a fresh horse, or perhaps two, which are more likely to go off than one that has been seen before; and without a quick return in the horse business it is ruination, for the expence soon eats them up. Now they tell you if they get a couple of guineas by a horse, it is all they require, but then they must mean on the average, and after all expences are paid, but not two guineas in advance to what they gave for the horse. Let us give it a fair consideration: twenty per cent. is the most common advance or profit put upon the generality of articles of trade; some articles of general run are less, but many bear a much greater profit; it is not then unreasonable to suppose that a greater proportion of profit should be put on the traffick in horses, where the risk and speculation is greater than any other business; for the instant the horse is bought there is a certain expence daily increasing his cost, and though some may go off quick, others may lay on hand a length of time,
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all which time expences are increasing, and are frequently sold at a considerable loss; there is likewise great risk, and frequently heavy losses from accidents, lameness, sickness and death, so that where a person stands at so much risk, you may reasonably suppose that an advance of forty per cent. is put on the first cost; that is, if a horse cost him sixty pounds, I think it not unreasonable that he should ask eighty guineas; now what man in any line of business, when he has once sold and delivered his goods, and got the money for them, will take them back at a larger price than they originally cost him, or at which he can otherwise procure them; none like it, or will do it, but where more is at stake in the denial, for trifles one would not lose an indifferent person's good will, and where the connection is very advantageous, a compliance may be reluctantly yielded, but not otherwise.

Now any person that had given eighty guineas for a horse, would not like, after a few days, to allow him at sixty pounds, and

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I will be bound to say, that seldom, if ever, the dealer would like you to make him the offer, therefore none but novices ever think of doing it.

But though no man in business likes to refund money and take his goods back, yet to keep your custom, and have your recommendations, as also to show candour and liberality, the horse-dealer, like other tradesmen, will change the article, but in this you must have a very liberal man, indeed to deal with, or you will most likely have considerably the worst of the bargain.

It is the intention of trade to have an advantage in every bargain that is made, and no gentleman can reasonably expect to swap or change with a dealer, without having considerably the worst of it, for the man must have advantage to live by his profession, and the gentleman must expect to pay for his caprice, fickleness, or instability. There are other drawbacks from the price that is given, which are frequently unknown,

unknown, nor even imagined by the purchaser; every groom that is not a complete novice, expects to have a feeling or perquisite in every horse that his master purchases, and though it might be bought without his knowledge, much less his recommendation, he will wait on the seller for his present. It is a custom usually complied with, particularly by dealers, who do not scruple to give a guinea; but this will not satisfy some avaricious dispositions, who were disappointed that they were not consulted, and had the opportunity of making their own terms. The guinea voluntarily given, is a conciliatory fee, that the groom may not crab, as they term it, that is, find pretended faults, and make his master dissatisfied with his bargain; for not only horse-dealers, but tradesmen in general find it more their interest to please the servants than the master, and are obliged to do underhanded things much against their inclination, to do business at any rate with some great families; therefore those servants who have any influence, will, in their several departments,

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have a feeling, and those that are unreasonable, will make exorbitant terms for themselves.

I have known grooms to stipulate and agree, that if their master bought the horse, they were to have ten guineas; five guineas is common; and when gentlemen put confidence in improper persons, they must expect to be thus served; the dealer has no alternative, he must comply with the terms, or not only lose the sale of that horse, but all the gentleman may ever after have occasion for, and perhaps numbers of others, which this first-rate groom might deter from coming to him: and the serving of such persons is no inconsiderable thing, for the groom finds an advantage to persuade his master to part with one, and buy another, as often as he for shame can; stratagems and artifices are not wanting to bring about a pretext, and a friend is recommended or helped to the purchase, with whom most likely the groom shares the profit.

Where

Where a person has not a groom to pil-
lage him, he will sometimes apply to per-
sons in the habit of being among horses,
if they know of such a description of horse
as they want, or one as they could recom-
mend, that would suit them; the enquiry is
soon made, and if the person purchases, a
stipulated fee is certain from the seller, and
oftentimes from the purchaser likewise, so
that a person can hardly indicate their being
in want of a horse, but they will make an
advantage of it.

Under all considerations you may see
how incompatible it is for horse-dealers to
take a horse back when once sold. Were
you to offer him the horse at the price he
originally gave for him, he would not wil-
lingly comply with it, because that would
be a disclosure, which, in a business of such
risk and speculation is always a secret, some-
times admitting of great advantage, at others
but little, and sometimes a loss; the first
he would not like to expose, and the others
he does not wish to place himself again in
s 2 situations

situations of little or no profit. When he buys he is in hope and expectation they will go off quickly; if they stick on hand, which the best of them cannot sometimes help or account for, he is glad to sell at a loss, and no price, comparatively, would induce him to have the horse again.

Dealers are sometimes so accommodating as to let you have a horse a week on liking; this accommodation is granted for various motives—extraordinary good customers, such as buy for themselves and others scores of horses in the year, may be accommodated in any manner they require: but when an offer of this kind is made with a shew of candour to a distrustful and timorous buyer, it is too often from sinister motives; the horse is generally one that sticks on hand, consequently are more desirous of getting him off than any other; the person is supposed to be a novice, and not being able to judge of quality, the horse being steady and quiet, the person gets used and attached to him, and then the sale is certain,
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at the price of a more valuable horse; sometimes, what is termed in the dealer's phrase, complete beggars are thus got rid of: a beggar is a horse that has done a deal of work, and is the worse for it, though able to do a wonderful deal of labour, but are not the choice of gentlemen, who desire to have fresh horses from the breeders, and work them till they become beggars, they then make staggers and post-horses. They will offer you a horse of this description any time on trial, only paying them for the hire, and to return him in as good condition as you received him. Now here is the chance of of the horse falling and breaking his knees, for what with the stiffness of his joints, and bad riding, he is very liable to such accidents, and then you are, according to agreement, fixed with the horse, or charged, perhaps, nearly as much as the horse was worth for the damage he has sustained; the dealer, at any rate, has the best of it, for he is eased of the keep of a horse, and is certain of hire or sale. But for a valuable fresh horse, no consideration will induce them

to bargain in this manner; were you to offer five guineas a day for hire it would have no weight; they will not ride them themselves, other than for shew or exercise; nor suffer you to have any other trial than a short distance with them in company, unless they know you extremely well, and dare not risk your displeasure; and for reasons that I have explained, twenty pounds in appearance is to be taken off a horse in a few hours, and sale horses must always be kept to the best appearance, otherwise they hide them, and wont permit them to be seen.

Having thrown some light on the nature of traffic in horses, that you may not expect what you would otherwise think unreasonable to be denied, and warned you of the duplicity of servants and others, it behoves every man to inform himself in the best manner he can; and if he has not judgment, I would recommend him to rely on the honour of a respectable dealer, who will find it his interest to suit and please you; but if you call in the opinion of another person

person, you not only forfeit your reliance on the dealer, but most likely put it out of his power to accommodate you.

But there are some that I would not advise any dependence to be put in, that are, what is termed in the vulgar phrase, *a nail*; such are low cunning men, who see no farther than the present moment, and make the most of you while they can, lest, as most likely you will not, give them another opportunity.

To assist those who wish to acquire some knowledge relative to soundness, blemishes, qualities and defects, I shall subjoin the following remarks, as general things to be regarded; but a thorough knowledge of a horse is what very few ever attain, not even the dealers, many of whom have but a very superficial judgment, though great assumption and self-sufficiency.

Horses are bought, as I have observed, from their external appearances, and their
s 4 value

value is to be estimated according to figure size, age, powers, capacity, and the like : the greater the combination of excellencies, the higher value or estimation is put on the horse.

Figure is the first thing that attracts the notice, and taken together many have a tolerable fair appearance, that will not bear each point to be separately scrutinized; nor will amateurs in horses always agree in this particular; fancy has a great share in it, for there are a variety of beauties in horses as well as in women, some preferring one, others another, therefore to describe a perfect horse I shall not attempt. The purpose for what the horse is wanted is likely to direct the dealer to what description of horse you want, and if he can find out the price you have confined yourself to, (which he will endeavour to fish for,) he will only shew you horses at your price, to save himself and you unnecessary trouble. Any that are likely to suit, you will of course see shewn out, and examine : the first object that
is

is generally attended to, is the eye, which may be examined to the best advantage at coming out of the stable into the light; the eye should be full and moderately large, a small eye is neither handsome nor desirable; as the horse comes to the light, you may perceive the pupil to contract, and the objects reflected on it, and otherwise clear and bright; on the other hand, if the eye has a thick cloudy appearance, specks, or streaked with white, rheumy, and the like, it is objectionable. A small eye is called a pig's eye; a moon-eye has a thick cloudy appearance, the eye projecting or staring, and the hair nearest the tunicle or corners of the eye, seem to have been destroyed by occasional sharp rheum issuing from the eye—at some periods of the moon the eye has a much better appearance than at others, but they gradually get worse and worse till they become blind; a wall-eye is a white eye, it has an unpleasant appearance, but it is a remark, that they never go blind.

From the eye you look to the mouth, and
observe

observe the age. The most desirable age to purchase a horse is six years old: for this reason, before he arrives to that age, they endeavour to make him out older than he is, as his value diminishes in proportion as he is short of that age—thus, a two-year-old horse is less valuable than a three; a three than a four; a four than a five; and a five is not so desirable as a six, the younger ages not being fit for work; but admitting that a four-year old horse is able to do all the work you require, yet he is not so valuable to you, because young horses are more subject to maladies, and are withal more tender and liable to be taken off with any severe attack; if the eyes fail, they generally shew it at five years old, and generally go blind at that age: thus, in horses as in men, the younger ages are accounted more hazardous than a mature or settled age.

The age of the horse is known by the teeth which are called the gatherers: his first teeth are called the sucking teeth, they are six above, and six below, and in this

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younger

younger stage are considerably smaller than those which take place of them. At about the age of two years and a half, the horse sheds the two center teeth, both above and below, and the shell of the new tooth appears in the place of them, taking some time to grow to a level with the others—the horse is then said to be three years old. At about three years and a half old, he sheds four other teeth adjoining to those he shed the preceding year, having the four outside or corner teeth remaining, and then they say he is four years old. The next year, or when he is four years and a half old, he will shed the four corner or remaining sucking teeth, and then he passes for a five-year old, though there is only the shell of the fresh tooth with flesh on the inside; at five years old the flesh disappears, and the the corner teeth are complete shells, being hollow on the inside. At about this age, the tusk (if it is a horse or gelding, for mares seldom have tusks, or when they do they are extremely small, just making an appearance) begin to show themselves; at five years

years and a half, the tusks become a moderate size, the point sharp, and the inside fluted, and the edge next the gatherers thin; the horse is then said to be six years old; being the most desirable age, he will, in the dealer's report, continue at that age for several years. At six years old the inner edge of the corner tooth will be grown up to a level with the outer edge, but the tooth will still remain hollow; at seven years old the tooth will get full, leaving only a brown speck or bean's eye on the top of it; now this brown speck or bean's eye will appear with some horses for many years, all which time a person who is not a judge, will be told he is a six-year-old horse; the bean's eye on the tooth is no certain criterion; when the tooth is full, you may conjecture by the length and appearance of the teeth, for as a horse advances in years, his teeth appear much longer, occasioned by the gums shrinking from them, and when extremely old, his teeth will be very long, and overhang. After the tooth is full (if a horse or gelding) you can best judge by the tusk; if

if the tusk is not over long, picked at the top, and a cavity or fluted inside, the horse is not old, and you may consider him in his prime if he has not been over worked.

Deceptions are sometimes endeavoured to be practised with the teeth, which is called bishoping, but none can deceive a person who is a tolerable judge; for instance, they will take the corner sucking teeth out at rising four years old, to sell for rising five; but then the state of the teeth of the preceding year, and the non-appearance of the shell of the corner tooth, discovers the imposition to a judge. The burning a cavity or bean's eye on the tooth, may deceive some, but a judge can perceive by appearance, or even the length of the tooth, if it is a natural mark; were they to file the teeth short, they would not shut close, the grinders not permitting them, besides, there must be a correspondence with the tusk; this they likewise attempt to practise, and file it shorter, but I never found any that had ingenuity to form the thin edge, and
flute

flute the thin edge like a six-year-old tusk, therefore they must be only novices that are thus deceived.

The eye and age being looked to, you next take a cursory view of the figure, previous to a more particular investigation, for which purpose the horse is placed to the greatest advantage—his fore feet on the highest ground, his head supported, and his tail figged, nor will they let him stand quiet till his feet are all placed regularly, though you desire repeatedly that the horse may stand at ease; and the same with figging, you cannot prevail on them to bring a horse out without. If you do not object to the figure on the whole, a more minute investigation should take place, as the value of the horse is in a great measure determined thereby, for the more deficient he is in the points that are considered admirable and essential, the less price should be put on him.

In the first place we shall consider the
ears,

ears, which is no inconsiderable feature in the figure of a horse; they should be small, carried erect, and the points being nearer together than the roots; but if large, and standing wide they are a great disfigurement; the forehead should be broad, the nostrils wide and open; the channel under the jaw, called the thropple, wide; the eye brisk and lively; the head, taken together, should be small, a star, snip, or small blaze down the face is no disfigurement, but too much white in the face is not admired.

The neck is admired for being long, taper, arched, and the manner it is set on. The setting on of the neck depends on the formation of the shoulder; if the shoulder is upright, the neck will be placed low; but, on the other hand, it is most desirable that the shoulder should lay back, and then the neck, if long and arched, will rise beautifully, the mane soft and flowing. Harsh and bushy manes shew coarseness of breed; the scrag, or part next the withers, should be so full, as not to incline towards a ewe neck.

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The chest should be wide or open, and the shoulder laying back, should become fine or thin at the withers, and the withers should rise proportionably above the back. From the withers forward is called the *forehand*; from the withers to the hips is called the *middle-piece*, or *barrel*; and from the hips to the croup is called the *hind-quarters*. The back should be straight and short, so as neither to be hollow nor hog-backed; nor the spinal bone to stand so high as to occasion the ribs to be too shelving, which is termed *flat-sided*, but the barrel should be roundish, the chest should be deep, the belly not tucked up, nor flank hollow; the fillets which are at the extremity of the back next the rump should be broad, and the ribs continued nearly to the hips:—the compactness of these parts enables the horse to carry the greater weight. The hind-quarters should be round and plump; if the top of the rump (which is that part next the fillets) stands high and prominent, it is called a *goose rump*; if the hips are high and prominent, it is said he is *ragged-hipped*: and when the

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quarters

quarters are lank and thin, it is termed cat-hammed: these are neither of them desirable traits. The dock, or tail, should be set on high, giving more elegance to the figure, and the sheath, if large, is thought to denote vigour. The legs are to be particularly noticed; they should not be ungainly long; the fore-legs should be straight, so that the knee does not project and knuckle forward; the arm from the elbow to the knee large; the knee flat and broad; the sinews firm, and distant from the bone; the legs, with the fetlock joint, to be cool and fine, that is, not fleshy, and free from nobs and knots, or any kind of gummyness; the pasterns to be proportionally short and upright, the foot large and broad, the heel wide and open, the foot not to be flat and thin, the frog hard and firm, and the toe is to be straight, not turning out. The horse should be upright on these legs, not having them too far under him, whereby the chest would project and overhang the feet, subjecting the horse to be heavy forward, and liable to fall; nor is the feet to stand too forward, like a horse with

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tender

tender and bad feet. The like observations may serve for the hind legs, the ham from stifle to hough to be large and boney, the sinews clean, and distant from the bone, &c.

Having considered the desirable construction of the different parts, I shall now consider what relates to soundness and blemishes. First; the appearance should be healthy; that is, the skin soft and loose, the coat bright, the body nowise tucked up or lank, and the horse brisk, and spirits lively; on the other hand, if the skin is tight to the ribs, the coat dead or staring, the body tucked up, and the horse heavy and dull, these are symptoms of disease, as also knobs or hardnesses in the skin, and the like.

At his head look at his nostrils, and observe if there is any running; if only a moisture, thin like water, it is of no account, it may be occasioned from various causes, or a slight immaterial cold; but if a thick, mucus discharge, the cold has been of some standing,

You should next examine the withers and back, that no bruises, or inflammation occasioned from a crush or pressure of the saddle, which when neglected are sometimes attended with serious consequences; then proceed to feel down the fore legs, observing that they are free from nobs, knots, splints, heat or inflammation, cuts and the like, but that the bone and sinews are distinctly felt without intervening flesh or swellings. Knobs, knots, and splints, are hard excrescences, occasioned mostly from bruises on the membrane of the bone, and if they are not large, or forming too near the sinews, which might occasion lameness, they are mere eye-sores, but if large, and lying back among the sinews, they are objectionable. Cuts are places

where the hair has been knocked off by interfering; in the speedy cut the horse strikes the bone projecting on the inside of the knee, and in the ordinary cut he strikes the inside of the fetlock joint. These are the places to be examined for this defect, and though a horse may be assisted by shoeing as not to interfere while the horse is fresh and in condition, yet, when he is overworked, and becomes weak, he will be apt to cut, though you do all you can to prevent him; then take up the foot, and here notice that the heel is wide, the frog sound and firm, the cleft called the frush not running and stinking, and likewise if the foot has been pared, and the shoe constructed to prevent interfering, from which you may draw an inference that the horse is much addicted to it.

The hind legs finish this examination: the principal thing to attend to here are the houghs, that no enlargement of any kind appear about them; hard excrescences about this joint are called spavins, thorough pins

pins, and curbs. Just above, on each side the fetlock, is where the wind-galls appear, but since the improvement in shoeing, we do not meet with them so common as formerly, an evident proof they were occasioned by the extreme pain the horse used to stand in. The place of interference should be examined, for a horse oftener interferes behind than before; if the houghs, as he stands, incline to each other, the feet will not be so liable to interference; this concludes your examination for blemishes.

You should next consider his action, manner of going, and carrying of himself; this greatly adds to, or diminishes his value, for though figure stamps a value on the horse, yet that is greatly increased by his action and manner of going; if he carries himself well, and has great speed, his value proportionally increases, and with these qualifications, if he is able to carry weight, he becomes considerably more valuable.

You must first see him walk, that is, if
T 3 they

they will let him, for the horse when shewn out by a dealer is so unsettled by the whip following him, and the frequent strokes which he has been accustomed to, to make him appear all animation and spirits, that you can scarcely get them to walk, and seldom to any advantage. The walk should be animated, the step bold and firm, measuring equal distances, and the foot coming flat to the ground; you must likewise notice while the horse walks from you, if he goes too near as to be liable to interfere; a horse is approved to go wider behind than before, but some horses straddle that you might wheel a barrow comparatively between their hind legs: this extreme is not desirable. Having seen him walk, which you can seldom do to any advantage in a dealer's hands, you must next see him trot; the excellence you require here is a quick, animated, and extended step, the knee up, and the foot meeting the ground light and nimble; if the foot comes down hard, it will dwell, and the horse will make more noise or bustle than speed. The step should be regular, measuring

measuring equal distances, and the beats true; you may shut your eyes, and tell a good trotter by the beats of his feet, when you are conversant with it; the action of the fore feet must be straight forward, so that when he picks up the foot, he does not throw it outward or round, but direct and straight, throwing himself forward by the feet which are on the ground, to extend his reach with those that are coming to the ground; the haunches should be pliant and springy, truly accompanying the action of the fore feet; if the one is more confined than the other, the horse must, when pressed, either lift or hitch, as it is termed; you will observe if he goes too near before, so as to be liable to the speedy or ordinary cut; a horse is not required to go wide before, if his action is not likely to interfere, it is wide enough, and somewhat wider behind is desirable. You must next see him rode in all his paces, and here you may expect to see his best performance, that is, in straight forward natural paces, which is all a dealer desires or aims at; the uniting him must be a work of

T 4

your

your own or some other person; you should now notice if he is addicted to any tricks, shewing any disposition to restiveness, rearing, shying, and the like, for if you are **not** competent to ride and break such horses, you would certainly object to them, and at any rate they are best when free from all manner of vice: after seeing him walked and trotted, you should also see him galloped. This pace you cannot expect to see in any perfection; you can only judge of its excellence from the manner in which the horse carries and frames himself for galloping, for you seldom see a horse much united in a dealer's hands, and his speed can only be judged of by his make, and the manner he carries himself: if he carries himself in a good form with his head up, is true upon his legs, gallops with apparent ease to himself, bringing his haunches forward, and extends his fore feet, meeting the ground lightly, and picking up his legs nimbly, without clambering and bustle, he may be said to gallop well.

You

You should lastly mount him yourself, to feel if you approve of his action under you, his mouth, and riding; let him have his head to walk out; if he noddles his head, and steps out nimbly, puts his foot fair to the ground, without hitting with his toe, it is good.

You must then put him in a slow trot, with a loose rein; if he is inclined to go too near the ground, he will most discover it in this pace, being rode with a slack rein, for he will occasionally touch with the toe, or shove the dust before him; but if he lifts up his foot, and puts it down fair and plump, in this careless manner of riding you may expect he will go very safely, when the hand supports him as it ought.

After this trot him out, giving him a proper support of the hand. The action and feeling of a horse under you, admits of such variety, that if you have not been in the habits of riding a great number, you will scarcely like any that do not resemble those

those you have been most accustomed to. If you have been used to ride a narrow horse, you will not admire one that feels a substance between your legs; if an easy smooth trotting horse, you will not admire one that trots rough, not that these are defects, but mere fancy; though I must confess an extremely rough horse is not a trotting desirable thing; nor is an extremely narrow horse, nor an extremely wide one, nor any extremes that do not constitute good; but few object to an extremely fast one, or an extremely good one: in immaterial things persons may please themselves; I have only to point out the desirable and exceptionable qualities.

The desirable are, that the action should be true and regular, bold and free, without any rolling, shuffling, running, and the like, and his speed equal to your wishes. The mouth is a material consideration with some; this will be found agreeable to that person's riding who had the breaking or principal riding of him, and may be good or bad in his

his estimation, and if the latter, it may please some people; but if the construction of the forehead is not very unfavourable, a tolerable horseman will soon alter the mouth to his own liking. You should lastly gallop.

The breaking of the horse to be handy and ready at all his paces, is a great advantage to the sale of a horse, and he is certainly more valuable for it; but I would not advise a person to reject a horse wholly because he has not had the advantages of education; if the horse has the natural gifts and properties, the expence of a guinea or two will make him perfectly handy and ready in all his paces, if you put him into the hands of a proper person; or possibly you may do that yourself, as this work is intended to assist gentlemen who may choose to amuse themselves in that way. Therefore the horse is not to be rejected if he does not readily strike into the gallop and take the right foot; but if in his disunited gallop he goes pleasant and true, nowise bunching behind, nor clambering before,

before, but brings his haunches forward, and extends his fore feet, with his head up, you can have him in a short time made handy for a lady to ride, if required.

If a proper consideration or apparent value is given for a horse, it is a degree of warrentry that the horse is sound; in short, dealers never hesitate to warrant the horse to be sound, where a sound price is given, for they themselves buy on those conditions: but when you buy a horse at a sale, you are in general to take him with all faults. In point of lameness it is far more easy for the eye to discriminate than for the pen to describe, and where you suspect a circumstance of lameness, have the horse, run with a loose rein and a slow trot, in which you will most likely discover it; should you be doubtful of the wind, you will perceive the horse to heave and beat in his flank immoderately. If you pinch the windpipe till he coughs; if the wind is bad, the cough will be hollow and phthisical, and the flank heave very much. But beside
broken

broken-winded, there are thick-winded horses and roarers—thick-winded horses appear to breathe with difficulty, as if there was an obstruction of phlegm, or such like, in their nostrils; and a roarer is far more exceptionable, for after galloping a few minutes, his wind completely roars and makes a most hideous noise. It may be argued that the horse's wind is good because he has not got an asthma, which is termed a broken wind; but I think no one would like to buy a horse of such description if they knew it: you are likely to be fixed with a horse of this kind at a sale, or where you have a very slight view or inspection of a horse at a fair, but if you gallop them for a few minutes they will discover themselves.

Respecting the colours of horses, it is said that a good horse cannot be of a bad colour. Let those admit this doctrine that please, I know that there are bad horses of a good colour, and good horses of all colours, but there are colours which I should not choose in preference. I should not prefer

fer a white or light grey, because they stain and are troublesome to keep clean, but others admire them much; a pied horse, or any party-coloured horse is disagreeable in my estimation; but blacks, browns, bays, chesnuts, roans, sorrels, iron greys, are colours which few people have exceptions to, if they have not unseemly marks, such as bald faces, or too much white about them; one or two white feet, not more than half way up the shank, is not disapproved of; but if white up to the knees and houghs, they are thought to disfigure the horse; black legs are thought to be the best and hardiest, and over much white, unless to a white or grey horse, is thought to be otherwise.

The colour is supposed by some to have an influence or effect on the passions, and constitution of the horse; the bright sorrel are said to be fiery, hot, and impatient, while the rusty brown and black is said to be dull and phlegmatic—but this is no certain criterion. I have met with hot and choleric horses

horses of all colours, and dull inactive horses that were sorrels and chesnuts, though I do not know but there may be a prevalence in the observation.

A hot and choleric horse is exceedingly troublesome and disagreeable to ride in company, and only those who wish to attract notice, and have a misconception of the merits of riding, would like to have one—a dull unmettled horse, is equally as disagreeable. A horse should have a free and willing disposition, should be all animation and fire when it is required of him, and only then; the instant you desist, he should be calm and motionless: nothing distinguishes the horseman so much as the complete unison between him and the horse, whereby the horse appears to do nothing by compulsion, but understanding the rider's will by that imperceptible communication continually preserved between them, he cheerfully exerts himself while the correspondence requires it, and becomes motionless when you no longer demand his exertion. How different with

the unskilful horseman!—the goading spur, or lashing whip first communicates to the horse that something is required, but no concordant hand and aids to explain what the horse is irritated and restless, and can only by accident perform what may be required, and then his fears and apprehension of spurs and whip deter him from being steady; and so irrational are some men, that they will use the spur or whip to make a horse stand quiet.

Thus, having noticed every thing belonging to horsemanship, that is useful or necessary for gentlemen's information, I sincerely wish that those who apply themselves to it may find that satisfaction and pleasure in the acquirements and pursuits thereof which I have done: I can indeed say, from experience, the amusement is of that description that the further you proceed, the more you are delighted with it, and till you have made considerable progress, you cannot discover the genuine merits and utility of it.

THE END.

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Introduction, xvii. line 4, practise *read* practised
 17, and reciprocal *read* and a reciprocal contempt
 xxvi. line 6, teaching the hand *read* teaching obedience to the hand
 xxix. line 17, habits of some *read* that some
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 67, line 4, when the aids *read* when these aids
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Page 36, last line, hocks or loins *read* back or loins
 101, line 2, support of the two *read* support of the toe
 104, line 24, found a necessary proportion *read* found necessary, in proportion
 106, last line, so little *read* any great
 107, last line, vol. i. p. 77, *read* vol. ii. p. 9
 191, line 3, longing binding *read* longing or binding
 204, line 13, every advance *read* every cadence
 255, line 10, and rattle *read* or rattle

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